

FREE

THE OTHER PRESS

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DOUGLAS COLLEGE SINCE 1976



ICE CAPADES STINK!

pg 21

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Mail Bag

RE: US Loses Steel Battle—
Can They Survive the War?—
Issue 11, Volume 29

Ted Morrison's article summarizes steel trade and the steel industry in US. Am I concerned about the troubles he describes? Yes and no.

No, because I am not going to feel sorry for America and Bush. After all, Americans are behind the idea of "global trading," and trying to convince the whole world to join this "pyramid" scheme. Therefore we may conclude—America deserves this lesson.

And yes, I am concerned, because anything that goes wrong in the US, obviously affects Canada. It is unfortunate that due to our geographical location and current policies of former and current governments, 85 percent or more of our total export goes to US. This means Americans virtually own our country.

This dependence is very precarious, and should not have been allowed to exist. Export is a vital part of any country's economy and in Canada accounts for 40 percent of GDP (correct me if I am wrong).

All this means, that the US can dictate and have a huge leverage on us when it comes to trade or international policy negotiations. Before the Mulroney era, Canada exported only about 60 percent to the South. We should do everything to get back to this number, and try to reduce it further.

Wojciech Langer,
New Westminster

citysoup.ca Celebrates with YOU!

The holiday break is fast approaching, which means you will be getting a break from school, but probably not from life. citysoup.ca can help.

Is this your first time making the seasonal dinner?

citysoup.ca has instructions on how to cook a turkey, complete with stuffing and cranberry sauce.

Looking for something to do with the parents?

Why not check out the holiday lights. citysoup.ca has a listing of houses in Coquitlam and Port Moody with the best holiday lights.

Need to stock up for the New Year?

Not many people (if any) can pass up a good boxing week sale. citysoup.ca has a listing of Port Moody and Coquitlam retailers with large size boxing week sales, including hours of operation, range of discounts and any other relevant information.

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The Other Press is Douglas College's autonomous student newspaper.

The Other Press is run as a collective and is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly (as a magazine) during the summer.

We receive our funding from a student levy collected every semester at registration,

and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. We adhere to CUP's Statement of Common Principles and Code of Ethics—except when it suits us not to. The Other Press reserves the right to choose what to

publish, and will not publish material that is racist, sexist, or homophobic. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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From The Editor



Happy Birthday To Me!

It was my birthday on Tuesday so on Friday I am going to party like it's my birthday. Sadly, like it's my 27th birthday and not my 19th. If it were my 19th the party would go from Friday to Friday. But 27—dinner with friends?

Am I now in my late twenties? It makes me sad. I'm not the young, energetic gal I used to be. I can't just slip into some hoochi mama clothes and head to the club to drop it like it's hot. I just can't—well, more like I shouldn't.

This past weekend consisted of cleaning the house, children's activities, and dinner with gramma at the white spot. I am hardly an up-and-comer in the social scene. But I am okay with that.

I have finally gotten to the stage in my life where I can stay at home and not care if I am missing anything. In fact, I sit at home and occasionally snicker, while thinking about those fools out at the clubs spending their hard-earned dollars and going home disappointed.

I can stay home for free and listen to the music I like, there is no line-up at fridge to get a drink, and no meaningless small talk. Oh yes, the good life.

Don't get me wrong. I still go out. In fact on Friday I am going to go to a pub for dinner. Can you imagine?—a pub! Fifteen of my closest friends—who of course don't get along—but there will be a band, good food, booze, and conversation.

You know what's worse than turning 26? It's turning 32! It's those poor suckers I feel sorry for.

Best friends forever!
Kerry Evans,
Managing Editor

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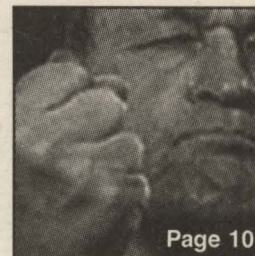
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The Other Press Submission Guidelines

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday for publication the following Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sections, and "time sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to the editor via email:

Kerry Evans at: editor@otherpress.ca

All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor below. Please include your name, phone number/email address, the word count, and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.

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News-worthy Events

Melissa Beedle
OP Contributor

On-Going
Open Speakers Forum
Open forum for ideas on rights, money matters, politics, justice, the environment, health, and other issues
Sapperton Hall
318 Keary Street, New Westminster
First Tuesday of every month, 7-9:30pm
Free admission.

December 10, 2003
The 55th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Coast Plaza Suite Hotel at Stanley Park, 1763 Comox Street, Vancouver
Wednesday, 6-8:30pm
Admission by donation.

December 11, 2003
Douglas College's Opportunities Enabled Centre hosts grand opening. Come and see the potential.
The Opportunities Enabled Centre, a new facility at Douglas College designed to help people with physical disabilities or workplace injuries retrain for Information Technology careers, hosts its grand opening. Drop by and meet the instructors, try programming the Lego robots, and test out the computers. The Centre will be home to the Opportunities Enabled Program, an Information Technology training program for people with disabilities. The program launches in January, and will run nine months, plus four months of work placement.
David Lam Campus
Room A2070
1250 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam
Thursday, 9:30am-1:30pm
For more information, contact Barbara Allen at 604.527.5247.

December 14, 2003
Douglas College's Community Music School celebrates the festive season with a fund-raiser concert to showcase the musical diversity of its faculty.
From Baroque choral music to Middle Eastern drumming to Celtic fiddling—the concert delivers something for nearly every musical taste. Tickets are \$10 and are available from the Community Music School Office or at the door.
Performing Arts Theatre
Fourth floor north, New West

Campus
Sunday, 2pm
For more information call 604.527.5469.

December 18, 2003
Originally broadcast on Global TV, *Foreign Fields* is a one-hour documentary that examines the apparent decline in Canada's international influence and explores different visions for renewing the nation's role in global affairs.
The film is hosted by the World Federalists of Canada—Vancouver Branch. The public is cordially invited to attend the viewing, which is followed, by discussion and refreshments. The World Federalists promote the development of democratic world institutions to make and enforce world law.
Unitarian Church Centre
949 W. 49th Avenue, Vancouver.
Thursday, 7:30pm
For more information, contact Larry Kazdan at 604.874.9982 or e-mail: lkazdan@shaw.ca.
Free admission.

January 24, 2004
Rolling Thunder Democracy Tour
For those of you who are Michael Moore fans, there is a tour in the US called the Rolling Thunder Democracy Tour. The idea for the tour was developed by commentator Jim Hightower. The concept is to put on community democracy organizing festivals in towns across the US to celebrate and reflect on the power of grassroots movements for change and activism. Participation is grassroots and not affiliated with any political party. Previous speakers include Michael Moore, Patch Adams, former Iraqi Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV, and independent filmmaker Robert Greenwald. In Seattle, representatives from labour, agriculture, faith, health, human service, independent and new media, the environment, education, and other progressive organizations gather to make it happen. The next Thunder Tour will be in Seattle. Maybe we can take a school field trip to Seattle? For more information, <www.rollingthundertour.org>. It's free and open to anyone.

MiniMUN—Canada's Efforts to Combat Terrorism

Mike Falys
OP Contributor

Video conferencing with a bureaucrat in Ottawa or asking questions of a former Canadian ambassador is not an everyday experience for most students, but that is just what happened at Douglas College on Friday, November 21, 2003. As a warm-up for their four-day February main event, the Douglas College International Model United Nations (DougIMUN) hosted a successful half-day conference called MiniMUN, which drew about fifty attendees, including a substantial contingent from a local private school.

The theme of the conference was Canada's efforts in combating terrorism. Graham Rodwell, Douglas College's Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, opened MiniMUN with an impassioned speech on the importance of global awareness in education, which he referred to as "an essential part of general education in the 21st century." Rodwell's speech included a surprise announcement of his commitment to "work toward making global studies part of the signature of Douglas College, especially with the development of new programs."

The next speaker was Gordon Longmere, former Canadian ambassador to Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Longmere was fresh from an official fact-finding trip to Southeast Asia. He was sent by the Canadian government to gather information on the growth of Islamic extremist groups preying upon the "softer targets" of this region. His goals were to see how nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia were handling the problem, and to see "what Canada could bring to the table."

His talk was peppered with information and insights into the history and current activities of these extremist groups. According to Longmere, Canada's role in Southeast Asian anti-terrorism has been largely "declarative" to date, but he called the conclusion "inescapable" that Canada needs to turn attention to terrorism in the region. In countries where US motivations are viewed with some suspicion, Canada is seen as being "without ulterior motives," a fact which might provide Canada with unique opportunities. When a person is able to say that he has met some of the leaders of these extremist groups, his words carry weight.

Longmere was a tough act to follow, but the ambassador was outdone by the bureaucrat. The video conferencing with Peter G. Bates, Deputy Director of International Crime and Terrorism from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, was a treat.

For the first 20 minutes of his session, Bates addressed the issue of glob-

al terrorism and Canada's role in combating this threat, revealing that the federal government has spent eight billion dollars to promote the government's power to combat terrorism globally. This presentation was followed by an extended question and answer period where Bates responded with surprising candour. A fine example of his frankness was when he quipped, "In the West, we haven't defeated corruption, we have only succeeded in managing it better."

When asked what the greatest threat Canada faced from terrorism was, Bates focused on the transnational nature of terrorist groups like Al Qaeda. Earlier in his talk, Bates had called terrorism the "sharp end" of international criminal activity, and discussed the "franchising of terrorism." However, when speaking to the specific threats Canada faced, Bates observed that previous generations of immigrants had lost their connection to the land of their birth due to serious communication difficulties. With recent immigrants, though, the ease of modern communication and transportation has kept alive close ties to the culture and the conflicts of their homeland. Consequently, events a world away can remain personal attacks and can bring terrorism home to Canadians. Personal attachment to old struggles was a direct factor in the worst terrorist attack in this country's history, the Air India bombings, which killed 331 people, mostly Canadian citizens. Transnational terrorist groups can manipulate the strings of old struggles.

When faced with tough questions revolving around the clash between civil liberties and fighting terrorism, Bates offered the guidelines he gave his staff: "The important issue in dealing with terrorism is not only remembering what we are fighting against, but to remember what we are fighting for."

The DougIMUN organizers should be applauded for the mini-conference they put together. Secretary Generals Anneliese Ganske and Merrill Farmer credited a "wonderful organizing committee," but gave a great deal of the credit to faculty advisor, Marlene Hancock, who they said means "Everything!" to DougIMUN. When asked what she liked best about MiniMUN, Farmer said that she was impressed with the attitudes of the attendees, who instead of just absorbing information "were questioning things and trying to find answers."

Despite a few rough edges to MiniMUN, if the quality of speakers at this mini-conference is a reflection of the talent that will be shown at the February International Model United Nations, it will be an event not to be missed.

DougIMUN World in Turmoil:
Terrorism in the 21st-Century conference will be held during Douglas College reading break, February 7-10, 2004. This four-day event is also the fifth anniversary of DougIMUN. It will feature delegates representing UN ambassadors from countries around the world debating real issues within a model UN setting. Reportedly, the debates and interactions can get quite heated, the delegates become very passionate about representing their country faithfully.

DougIMUN is hoping for the participation of over 200 delegates. They already have student delegations coming from as far away as West Virginia and the American University in Cairo, Egypt. For more information on this event, attend their information session Wednesday December 3, 2003 or watch for announcements of more information sessions in January. Visit the DougIMUN web site at <<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/dougimun/>> for more information.

Tri-Cities Abduction Alerts

Kelly Parry
News Editor



Police claim that child abduction incidents occur more frequently in the weeks before Christmas. Abductors are likely to try to take advantage of an earlier nightfall, increased activities, and busy adults distracted by Christmas planning. Police suggest that parents or a trusted individual, escort their children to school, pick them up after school, and take special precautions for evening classes or extracurricular activities. Coquitlam RCMP is warning the public about two such recent abductions.

Port Coquitlam

Police are warning parents to keep their children close after a scruffy-looking stranger grabbed a girl's hand on the grounds of Our Lady of Assumption Catholic school located at 2255 Fraser Ave in Port Coquitlam at 6:30pm Thursday.

Assumption principal John van der Paul said the nine-year-old-girl, who was on her way to an evening religion class, screamed, wriggled free, and managed to catch the attention of her father, who was just driving away. The man who grabbed her turned and fled.

The individual who attempted to grab the student was a scruffy-looking male, possibly Asian or First Nations, in his 40s, approximately 5'10" tall, skinny, with short, black hair and wearing a black jacket.

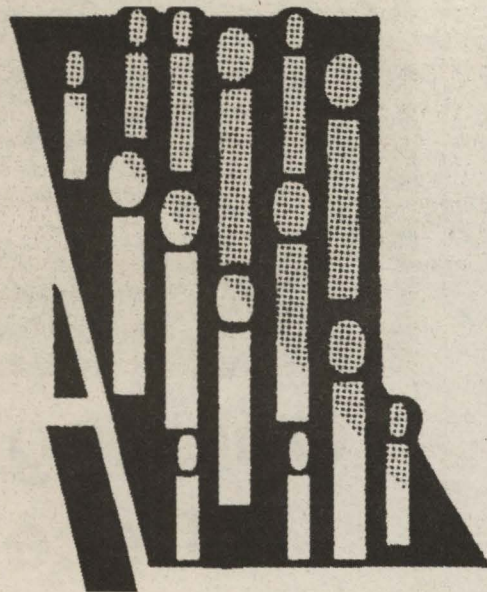
Coquitlam

A 12-year-old Como Lake middle school student was followed by a suspicious man when walking south along Gatensbury Street toward Foster Avenue around 8:30am. The girl passed a man, who then turned around and began to follow her. As she walked faster, he also increased his pace. When she reached Foster, she ran, hid in some bushes, and watched as the man looked for her. She then spotted a friend's mother, who drove her to school.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian man, around 30 years old, about 5'7" tall, with a medium build, dirty blonde hair and a pale complexion, wearing a blue ski jacket, blue jeans, and was carrying a black backpack.

Anyone with information on either incident is asked to call Coquitlam RCMP at 604.945.1550.

Vancouver Groups Receive UN Blessing



Kelly Parry
News Editor

On December 10, the world celebrates the 55th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To celebrate, The BC Human Rights Coalition and the United Nations Association will make the 16th Anniversary presentation of the Renate Shearer Award to LEGIT—The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force and The Rainbow Refugee Committee for their outstanding contribution in the field of human rights. They are being recognized for their work toward ending discrimination of same-sex couples who immigrate to Canada, and for assisting refugees who have experienced persecution due to their sexual orientation, HIV status, or gender identity.

The Renate Shearer award is presented to someone or some group who has made an outstanding

contribution to human rights. This award is a memorial to the life and work of Renate Shearer who was a champion of equality and dignity for all.

In 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

The presentation will take place on December 10th, 2003, Coast Plaza Suite Hotel at Stanley Park. Wednesday at 6pm. To visit the Universal Declaration of Human Rights go to <http://www.unac.org/rights/declaration.html>.

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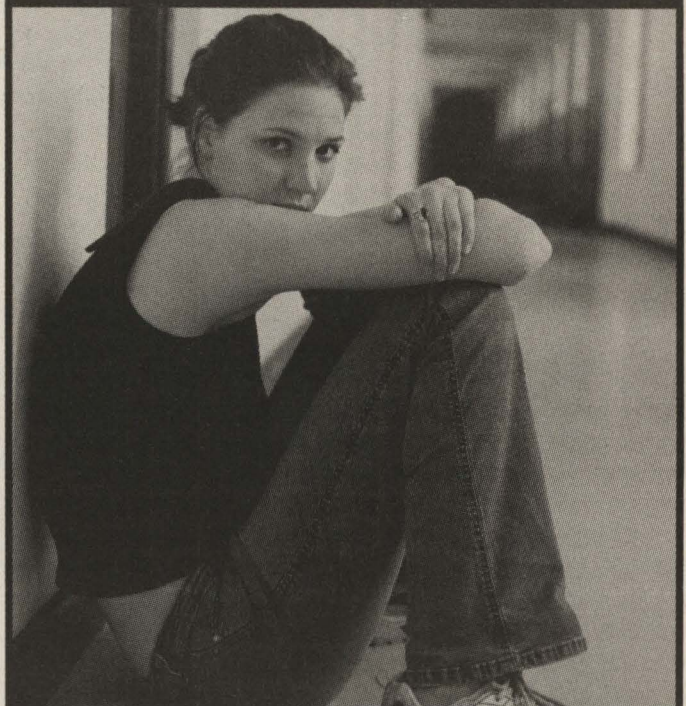
You can also check out our other exclusive student offers from **Fido, Bell Mobility, or Rogers AT&T.**

You are not alone

The Students' Union's Pride Collective provides resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students at the college.

The Collective meets Thursdays at 4:30.

All lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning and allied students are welcome.



Douglas Students' Union
Canadian Federation of Students Local 18

Little Value in Thought?

Dear colleagues, students, alumni, others:

This past Wednesday, Premier Harris addressed a summit on the future of the universities. On that occasion he said that he sees little value in academic degrees in the humanities, geography, and sociology, in which "The graduates have very little hope of contributing to society in any meaningful way." (*Globe and Mail*, Nov. 21, *Toronto Star*, Nov 20)

I am writing to ask you to take a little time out of your day to consider this remark, especially in the context of this government's other actions on education, and to make a public response. I have tried to keep this note brief, because I hope that reading it takes only the first minute of that time.

At the least, Harris's remark is extremely offensive. At the worst it is phenomenally stupid and dangerous. For those of us who have been educated in these fields, and especially for those of us who teach in them, we are being told that we are unlikely to contribute anything meaningful. (When I think of Harris's contributions to society I find myself thinking of Arlo Guthrie, in "Alice's Restaurant," being told that as a litterbug he wasn't moral enough to join the army.)

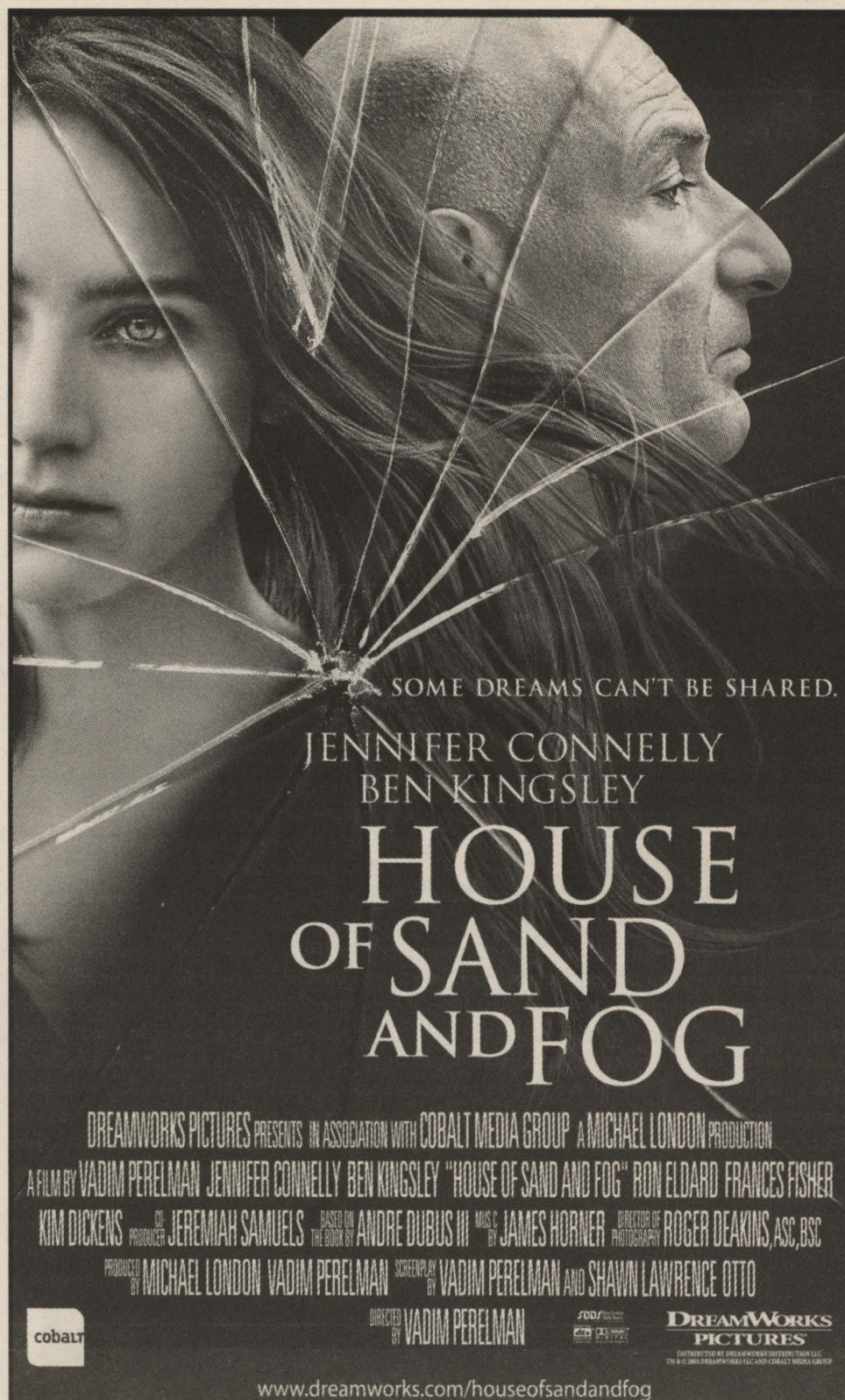
I wish I could say that I don't understand what Harris means by "meaningful," but unfortunately I suspect I understand all too well. Reflection, education, and research on anything to do with the human world are deemed meaningless unless they immediately make money. It's that the humanities and social sciences are the traditional home of meaning, but Harris sees none there. From John Snobelin's early plans to create a crisis in education to Bill 160, this government has attacked education. But now the principle guiding its moves are clear: This is an attack on THINKING.

The Harris government would like to create an Ontario in which "unproductive" thinking is strongly discouraged. Critical reflection may be good for democracy, for justice, for a virtuous society, for a vibrant culture, but these are not the goals of this government. And Harris is short-sighted enough to believe that he can neglect those goals in favour of business, that business can flourish without any broad education.

I would like to ask you to write a letter, long or short, about the importance of education. For most of you who receive this message this is an easy and congenial form of protest, and one for which you can draw on your own thoughts on and experiences of education. If we each write a letter, and send or fax those letters to local and national newspapers, with copies to our MPs and to Harris, the effect could be overwhelming.

In addition, I would like to ask you to circulate this message as widely as you can, to use the formal and informal networks that email creates to send this request to friends, colleagues, and students across the province.

Sergio Sismnodo
Assistant Professor
Philosophy and Sociology
Queen's University, Kingston



SOME DREAMS CAN'T BE SHARED.

JENNIFER CONNELLY
BEN KINGSLEY

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PRODUCED BY MICHAEL LONDON VADIM PERELMAN SCREENPLAY BY VADIM PERELMAN AND SHAWN LAWRENCE OTTO
DIRECTED BY VADIM PERELMAN

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Tasty Tortoiseshells

Kali Thurber
Opinions Editor

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." It's freezing outside, everyone's got their nice, happy, Christmas smiles pasted on their faces, and the hill up to Douglas College just keeps getting longer. Every year at this time, I start wondering, "Why is it that I am celebrating this hideous time of the year?" Then I remember the one and only good thing about the Christmas holiday—chocolates!

Sure, sure, Halloween just passed, and we all had our share of sweets—but there's no reason to stop now. You might as well put off dieting for another month—after all, you'll need something to resolve for the New Year. Here are some decadent (though rather messy) treats to smother the wretched pre-holiday blues. They're actually just like the "turtles" my grandma always buys, with that weird, dancing turtle with the top hat on the front of the box. But since these are homemade (got one on ya grandma) I think they deserve a flashy, new name.



Turtle Body

1/2c butter or margarine
1/2c brown sugar, packed
1 egg
1 egg yolk
1/4t vanilla
1 1/2c flour
1/4t baking soda
1/2t salt
2c pecan halves (depending on your turtle designing capabilities)
1 egg white, unbeaten

Tortoise Shell

2 squares unsweetened chocolate
1/4c milk
1T butter
1c icing sugar, sifted

Cream butter and brown sugar—beat in 1 egg, 1 egg yolk, and vanilla. Add dry ingredients—mix well. Arrange pecan halves in groups of 3 to 5 on an ungreased cookie sheet, to resemble the head and legs of a turtle. This is tricky, but considering you're working with pecans, anything will do. If you want to get fiddly—cut a few pecans into thin strips and use them as tails.

Form the dough into 2 1/2 cm balls—dip bottom of each into egg white, and press lightly onto nuts—letting the tips of the nuts show. Bake at 350 degrees for about 12 minutes, and then allow the little suckers to cool for at least 15 minutes.

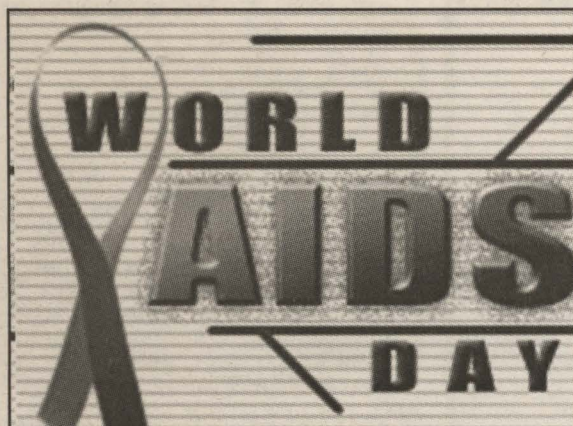
While the turtle innards are cooling, you can prepare the shells (frosting). Now don't forget, frosting is the best part of Christmas desserts, so don't mess it up. Start by cooking the chocolate, milk, and butter over hot water until smooth. When it comes to cooking chocolate, you never can be too obsessive. Why do you think that nit-picky freak, Martha Stewart, makes such good ones? Stay by the chocolate, and stir it several times until it's smooth. Remove from heat, and beat in sugar until smooth again.

Now give the turtles their frosty shells, and you're ready to stuff your face. Happy Holidays!

Over the Rainbow

December 1, 2003—World AIDS Day...Did you know?

Joel Koette
OP Columnist



Did you know that December 1 is World AIDS Day? I have decided to write this article to educate the college community about AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, for a few reasons.

The topic of AIDS, and the continuing epidemic, has been a hot topic in the media, as of late. Bono, that's right, Bono from U2, spoke of the AIDS crisis in Africa and asked that our new Prime Minister (December 12, 2003) address the situation by having Canada play a leading role in the elimination of AIDS at the Liberal Leadership Conference, only a few weeks ago. Countries around the world have either decided to fight AIDS or have chosen to ignore the issue. The African government has made the choice to address the issue with increased education, and have asked the UN for help. It will be interesting to see what role Canada takes in the struggle to end a worldwide epidemic. Numbers are on the rise everywhere, due to misinformation and lack of resources.

Is AIDS a gay disease? The answer is no. Straight or gay people can contract AIDS if they practise unsafe sex. People still see AIDS as a gay disease, and the primary group that contracts AIDS. Due to this myth, many peo-

ple do not think they are at risk of infection, and do not take the necessary steps to protect themselves. What are the steps? Abstaining from sex is the only sure way to prevent contracting AIDS, and transmitting it to others—the second is to practise safe sex. I realize you have all heard this before, but are you following this advice? I can't count how many times friends or colleagues have admitted to not using protection. It only takes one time...I can't stress that fact enough.

Who has AIDS in Canada? As of June 2002, Health Canada reported that 51,470 people have tested positive for the virus in Canada and 13,357 of these people have died. In December 2002, the Canadian AIDS Information Centre undertook research, estimating that there are 15,000 people in Canada that are currently infected and are not yet aware of the infection. These numbers are only from the people who chose to be tested for the virus, meaning that the actual numbers could be much higher.

How long will it take for AIDS to develop? The window period is the time in which you have been exposed to HIV and when a blood test will be able to measure the antibodies your immune system will create to fight HIV. The length of time often varies, but on average it will take anywhere from six weeks, to six months after HIV has entered your body to become detectable. How long before you can start to see signs of HIV infection? There has been no specific time period given before you will start to see signs of HIV infection, but many people have lived many years before symptoms have begun to appear. Is AIDS fatal? Yes, AIDS can be fatal, but some drugs that have been produced can delay symptoms and prolong life.

For more information on HIV/AIDS or for testing contact the New Westminster Health Unit at 517 Carnarvon Street or call 604.777.6789 Tuesdays, Noon to 3:30 or Thursdays, 4–8pm.

A Selfless Act

Tamara Billau
OP Contributor



The magic seemed to be missing from Christmas. I always make an effort to embrace the holidays, but I just couldn't motivate myself this year. I've never been Martha Stewart. I don't know how to make Christmas ornaments out of left-over saran wrap or deep-fry an entire turkey. I

was thinking that both Ebenezer Scrooge and The Grinch were not just misunderstood, but had some valid points. I'd retreated so far into the bah-humbug realm that when the powers that be were playing Christmas carols in the weight room at my gym the other day, it annoyed me to such a degree that I was forced to skip my workout. Okay, it was a slim excuse, but I clung to it anyway.

It's so easy to get fed up at the holidays. The malls are packed with aggressive, unpleasant customers and downright hostile, customer service reps and yet we are forced to spend a lot of our spare time there. The weather aggravates the situation, forcing us inside with our equally frustrated families and loved ones. Our waistlines increase in tandem with our credit card bills, and yet every December we lose our minds over this holiday. Why do we do it?

I was self-righteously determined to take the high road this year and boycott everything to do with Christmas. I felt so above it all—pitying those poor souls trapped by their need to buy every person on their list the perfect gift. It just seemed so pointless. Then, I did something that made me realize where we have gone wrong with

Christmas. I took a walk around my own neighbourhood and everywhere I looked there were lights. Some houses had simple displays, and others were monuments to tackiness, but all of them were an effort to delight the observer. Christmas lights are one of the few examples of a selfless act that I can

think of. They're a terrible waste of electricity, and a nightmare to put up, and yet we risk life and limb to hang them every single year. The homeowner receives very little gratification from their sacrifice. Perhaps a quick glance and a smile as they drive up to their home, but otherwise Christmas lights are put up with the passing pedestrian, or motorist in mind. Strangers are sending out a subconscious message of goodwill without even being aware of it.

Christmas has become a source of endless stress and tension. Hanging a simple strand of lights can renew our hope for mankind if we allow ourselves to recognize it for what it is. So, instead of sitting down in front of the TV this Christmas Eve, go for a walk around your neighbourhood with your family and be aware of what Christmas should be about. Look around you and see that despite the evil man does, there is still a lot of good there too. Selfless acts are rare, but can alter your perspective and hopefully make you remember the joy of the holidays instead of the chaos. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good light.

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Taking Marketing to the Max

Kelly Parry
OP Contributor

Gerard Edwards is a one-man marketing machine. The winner of one of Douglas College's 2003 Faculty Excellence Award, Edwards, is a man of many dimensions who practises what he preaches.

"A lot of people think of marketing as a job or function," says Edwards. "It's a lot deeper than that. Your business philosophy has to be marketing-oriented—aimed at satisfying your customers, employees, society, and the environment. You can't sell what you have if you're not being respectful of all of them."

Edwards is currently on Educational Leave from the Marketing Department, working on revamping the professional certification program for the Sales and Marketing Executives International (SMEI). As the Acting Director of Education with SMEI, Edwards is learning how other institutions teach marketing and, true to his philosophy, he is learning how business views those marketing programs.

"My challenge is to expand and promote the certification program," says Edwards "and to ensure the programs reflect marketplace trends. The material in the certification programs should meld really well with what we are teaching at the college and university levels in North America. The long-term goal is for college and university graduates to get credit for their education in the certification process."

To support those goals, Edwards is also working to create on-line resources for the certification program and to ensure college and university courses are compatible with the program and vice versa.

But what do his past students have to say...

Looking back on her first marketing class Lovleen Brar says, "I didn't really care about school. Then instructor Gerard Edwards walked into class with a big smile on his face. I was thinking, okay, great, another teacher, but with him, it was different. He cared about each and every one of his students. By the end of the second class, he knew everyone's name."

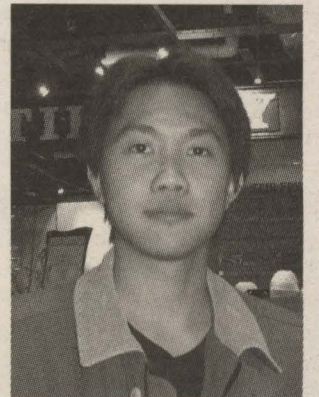
Juanita Murley says Edwards goes out of his way to create opportunities for students. "Gerry is a very caring teacher," says Juanita Murley. "He puts a lot of effort into what's going on at the school. When we needed something done urgently for the Marketing Students Society, he came to Douglas College on the weekend and used his own time to help out—above and beyond the call of duty."

Students can keep watch on Edwards' progress on the certification section on the SMEI website at <http://www.smei.org>. There you will find out details on the Certified Marketing Executive (CME), Certified Sales Executive (CSE), and SMEI Certified Professional Salesperson (SCPS) credentials.

Third Degree

Angela Blattmann
OP Photographer

What's your favourite magazine?



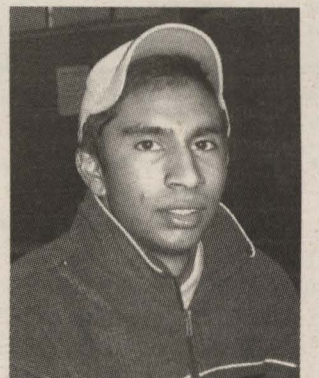
Name: Ronny

Answer: *PC World*



Name: Yu

Answer: *Style (Japanese)*



Name: Vohara

Answer: *Slam (Basketball mag.)*

Science Matters

Industry Needs a Push to Build Better Cars



David Suzuki
David Suzuki Foundation

It's that time of year. Late fall—a crisp chill in the air, frost on the ground—and automakers rolling out their latest, largest creations.

Big is in. Big everything. And sex. Sex everything. Meanwhile, the streets get more and more clogged and our air gets smoggier. Polls show that consumers want better, cleaner cars. We have the technology if only the automakers would make the effort.

In the US, there are now more cars than drivers. Yet newspapers this time of year are still filled with fall automotive supplements, some almost as large as the newspapers themselves. They detail every type of new vehicle you can imagine, along with advertising for the same. These days, about half of those vehicles are SUVs, pickups, and minivans. Most people don't know

that such vehicles are classified by the government as "light trucks," which means they aren't required to meet the same fuel-efficiency standards as cars. So they are allowed by law to burn more gas and pollute more.

That's one of the inequities former Member of Parliament Jim Fulton wanted to address in a recent speech to automakers and journalists at a conference called Cars and Culture, held in Toronto. The symposium was supposed to be an examination of the role of automobiles in society.

So, Fulton got up and talked about how he is a driver too, but as a society we drive too much. There are too many big, heavy, polluting vehicles on our roads. Entire suburbs are designed around car culture. It's making us fat. It's responsible for increasing health care costs. It's making our kids sick.

In short, Fulton said, it's a huge problem that needs to be fixed now. When we eat up valuable farmland to build isolated, public transit-challenged suburbs and force people to drive, we increase the smog in our air and add to our waistlines. When we allow massive SUVs powered by big, inefficient engines to roll off dealer lots, we get stuck with those obsolete vehicles on our roads for a decade or more. These decisions will affect our children for generations to come.

In Europe, where fuel efficiency standards are much higher, the trend is not toward bigger, heavier vehicles, but toward smaller, more efficient ones. Two-seat "Smart" cars are all the rage, combining fun styling with super fuel-efficiency. They can park practically anywhere, they pollute less, and reduce traffic congestion. But you can't buy them in North America.

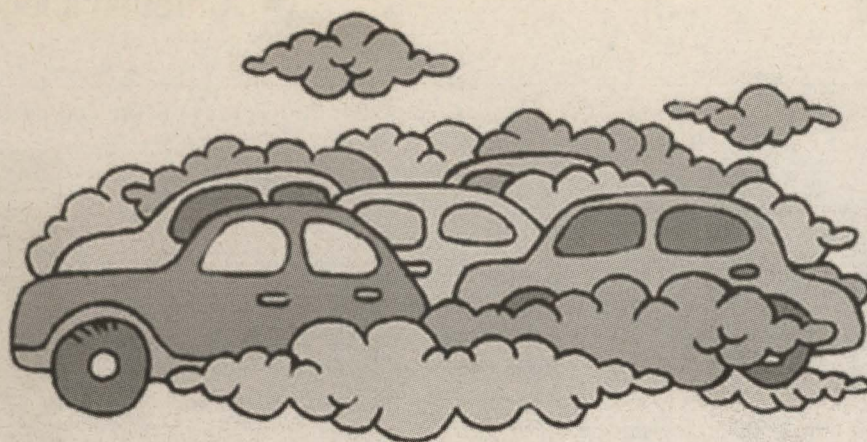
It isn't like we haven't had the opportunity to change. Fulton talked about how when he was an MP way back in 1981, he proudly voted for legislation that would have greatly improved fuel efficiency for all vehicles—including SUVs. That legislation passed, but the auto lobby fought it like mad, so it was never proclaimed. As a result, today's new vehicles in North America on average actually get worse gas mileage than they did back in 1980!

It's not like the technology eludes us, either. Hybrids (which have both an electric and gasoline motor) burn far less fuel, but few models are available. In the US, the Union of Concerned Scientists took an SUV and made \$3,000 worth of simple modifications to it that increased gas mileage by 71 percent. In Europe, new standards will see fuel efficiency improve by another

25 percent by 2005—and their cars are already more efficient than ours.

Fulton ended by saying that industry needed to work with environmental organizations and smart growth groups if we want North American cities to be healthy and livable for future generations. The audience, largely automotive executives and journalists, clapped. He sat down.

Then someone else took the stage and started talking about cars and sex. Executives sat up. Journalists started taking notes. General Motors unveiled a 1,000 horsepower Cadillac. Young women in tight shirts tossed keys to audience members and encouraged them to go for test drives. It's that time of year. Consumers may be ready for better cars, but perhaps the industry is not.



Paparazzi

Angela Blattmann
OP Photographer



Name:
Shadrack
Age:
21
Program at Douglas College:
Commerce and Business Administration
Last CD in your stereo?
A Perfect Circle—*Thirteenth Step*
Have you been sick yet this fall?
No.
Have you ever had a flu shot?
No. I've never had to.
Would you?
I wouldn't get one.
What do you do/take to feel better when you've got a bad cold?
Uh, cough medication.



Name:
Mariko
Age:
22
Program at Douglas College:
EASL
Last CD in your stereo?
Beyonce
Have you been sick yet this fall?
No.
Have you ever had a flu shot?
Would you?
Yes, I have.
What do you do/take to feel better when you've got a bad cold?
I sleep.

Right Hook



Chrétien's legacy of lies

CORRECTION: In my last article I described *Adbusters* as being a "\$15 publication." In reality, the magazine costs around eight bucks. It's still overpriced.



J.J. McCullough
OP Columnist

Well, Chrétien is finally gone, and not a moment too soon. Come December, our glorious Prime Minister's 40-year career in politics will finally come to an end. If you ask me, it's 40 years too late.

Recent polls show that somewhere around 60 percent of Canadians are unable to name a single accomplishment of the Chrétien era, and frankly, I am surprised the number is that low. Chrétien was elected on a thoroughly legitimate platform of change and renewal, and yet, during his decade in power he ignored or broke practically every promise he ever made.

Chrétien promised to abolish the GST. Instead he kept it, and raised just about every other tax, as well. He promised to increase healthcare transfer payments to the provinces, but instead made over 25 billion dollars in cuts. He promised to slash government excess, and instead government spending ballooned out of control, with billions of taxpayer dollars being funneled into bizarre art grants, private luxuries for his cabinet, useless Crown corporations, and general boondoggles like the infamous gun registry. Chrétien championed the cause of parliamentary reform, and vowed to abolish the Senate. Today the senate is packed with Chrétien loyalists, parliament has been reduced to all but a rubber stamp, and government corruption remains rampant. We still don't even have an independent ethics counselor in this country, but we do have a vast array of diplomatic posts being staffed by Chrétien's closest friends and family members.

Of course, a few of his flip-flops worked out for the better. He did not destroy Free Trade, despite numerous promises to do so while in opposition. He also failed to bring back his pet cause of the 70s—the infamous National Energy Policy in which the Federal Government had seized control of Alberta's oil in order to pay off the debt of their various failed schemes. Chrétien criticized Prime Minister Mulroney for abolishing this idiotic, socialistic ploy, but thankfully, once in power, Chrétien made no moves to re-implement it. Both Free Trade and the liberated Alberta oil industry have proven to be extremely successful, and needless to say Chrétien has eagerly taken credit for the benefits they have brought to Canada. It's truly a sad state of affairs when a politician's greatest successes come from breaking his own election platform.

Chrétien has only really been consistent on one policy over the years, and that is his anti-Americanism. I don't think Chrétien viciously hates America, (he seemed to get along well Bill Clinton) I just think that Chrétien possesses the "knee-jerk anti-American" gene that is so popular among Canadians. Throughout his whole career, the PM has refused to admit the Americans have ever gotten anything right, be it drug laws, tax cuts, or foreign policy. This, in turn, makes Chrétien very attractive to the super-left wing Liberal Party, who see no problem in calling the President of the United States a "moron" or the American people "bastards" in public.

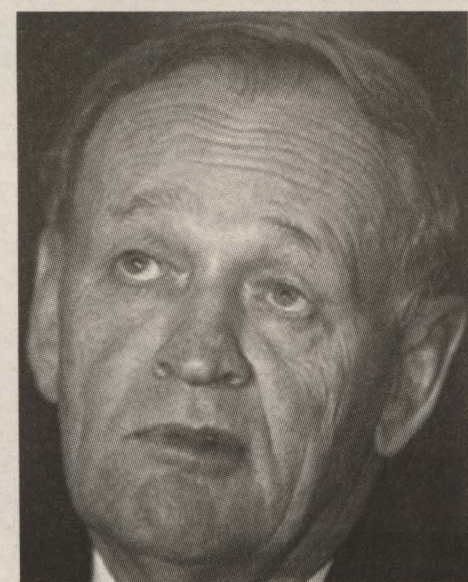
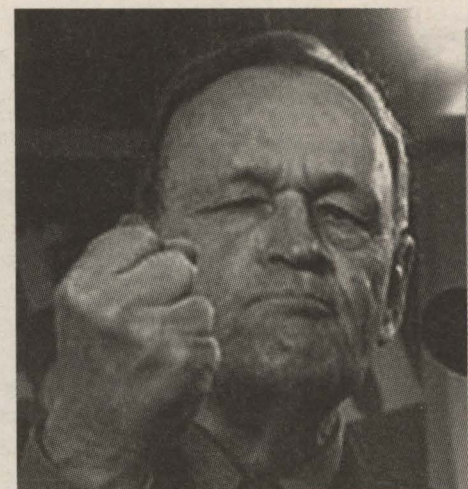
In his own mind Chrétien is nothing less than a

brilliant statesman—the best Prime Minister in history. Any speech he gives is likely to be full of self-congratulatory praise about how he "saved Canada" by "keeping Quebec in." This is quite a bold statement from a man who was notably absent during the 1996 referendum campaign, in which said referendum ended up only being rejected by an incredibly thin margin of less than 1 percent. True, the separatists are now out of power in Quebec, but this was largely due to the Parti Québécois' own political incompetence and not any brilliant scheme on the part of Chrétien. Indeed, it was Chrétien's own unpopularity in Quebec that was able to keep the separatists in power as long as they were.

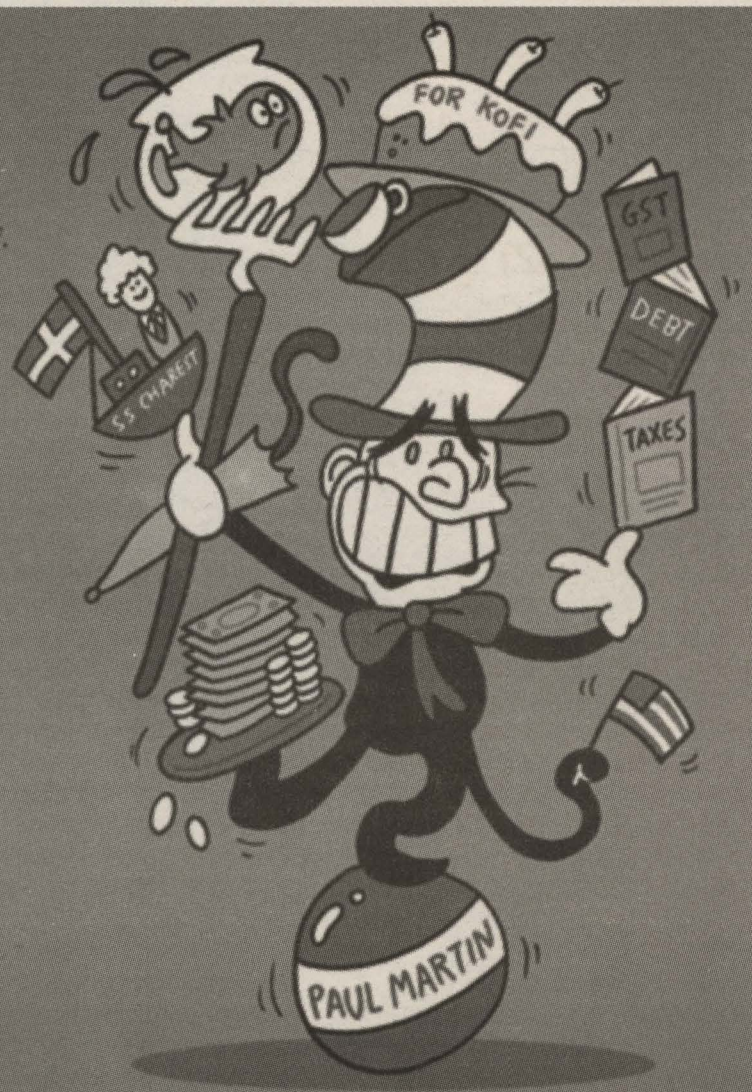
*In his own mind
Chrétien is nothing
less than a brilliant
statesman—the best
Prime Minister in
history*

Behind all the rhetoric, the real Chrétien legacy is clear: higher taxes, greater debt, an ever-increasing socialistic beauracracy, US-Canada relations up in smoke, and a parliamentary government so manipulated and centralized that it has turned the country into—as the *Globe and Mail's* Jeffery Simpson memorably

put it—a "friendly dictatorship." It remains to be seen whether or not Paul Martin will be an improvement over Chrétien. Martin is spouting all the right lines right now, about lowering taxes, cutting spending, and reforming parliament. He says the Liberal party under his rule will bring in a new era of government, one of fairness and accountability. Stop me if you've heard this one before.



Look at me!
Look at me!
Look at me NOW!
Governing's easy
But you have to know how.
I can balance the budget
and curb our excess
and appease the UN
and befriend the US.
I can increase free trade
and keep our dollar high
and lower our taxes
and increase our supply.
I can handle Quebec
and the East, and the West
and save the third-world
and free the oppressed.
I can please everyone
As I hop on this ball
But that is not all.
Oh no,
that is not all....



<http://www.filibustercartoons.com>

Cartoon by J.J. McCullough

Social Myths



Macdonald Stainsby
OP Columnist

Well, much like the majority of people reading this column, I'm about to go to my final exams this coming week. In preparing, I intend to do what we all do—check the material and make certain I have as good of a grasp on the material as possible. I have really had the screws put to me, as I (like many others) am trying desperately to pass a Statistics course, which is a killer on the nerves, and the patience of your spirit. However, statistics has done one good thing for me. It reminded me that “data” needs to be stated up front, that simple guesswork isn't good enough. One cannot base an opinion on a presentation of what they would like to believe, and expect that belief to be respected—you need some kind of proof. Otherwise, you are simply mongering myths as interpreted fact.

Case in point, I'll illustrate what I call “social myths”—beliefs held by people in this society that are not, in fact, based on reality.

• **Canada did not participate in the attack on Iraq.**

Both the media, and the good people who desire to believe that they are not involved in the mass slaughter of Iraq, have perpetuated this myth. However, the reality is that only Britain and Australia have committed more to helping crush the Iraqi people, as Canada led the Coalition of the Killing's Navy, involving some 1300 troops. Canada also coordinated air bat-

tles, provided military transport, and is the single largest provider (aside from themselves) to the US of any arms. All American airplanes, regardless of whether or not they were attacking a sovereign country, were granted immediate and full access to Canada's airspace. All of this and much more is a matter of public record.

• **Free Trade agreements reduce poverty in Third World Countries.**

This sentence is so loaded with social myth, that I'm not sure where to start.

The only thing free is the rights of the worker

First off, the term “free” trade is grossly misleading. The only thing free is the rights of the worker: free from healthcare, union protection, working standards and environmental legislation. Small companies, when larger companies are

“freed,” are reduced by huge numbers over their previous percentage of the market—only a few super-mega-ultra corporations are left, with prices rising, and real wages (wages where you factor in the “variables” like the cost of rent, gasoline, clothes, etc.) falling. Mexico is a case to be treasured—since 1994 and “free trade” imposed upon Mexico—those living in absolute poverty have more than tripled.

• I could play this game all day, but I'm going to go with one more myth and be done with it. After all, we've got exams to write. **We live in a democratic society.** This is probably the most twisted social myth there is. But all you need to do is grab an online dictionary (I went with the Merriam Webster) for the word democrat-

ic: “Of, relating to, or favouring democracy—relating to, appealing to, or available to the broad masses of the people. Favouring social equality: not snobbish.”

Clearly we do not live in such a society. The term has also been perverted beyond recognition when it comes to countries that the US—and Canada—have decided to occupy and control. How can a government imposed upon a people “favour social equality?” Is it possible, that under a

hail of bombs, Iraqis might see their own country as “available to the broad masses of the people?” What could be more “snobbish” than to say, “We have a form of government we like, and you will adopt it or we kill your kids?” But this happens with every raid, and with every child blown apart by an itchy trigger finger—a finger on a man who is probably younger than me, perhaps with fairer skin (though that's tough), thinking he is acting in the name of democracy. He might even be there to try and advance the nobility of all human beings, but yet is losing his ability to look in the mirror with each passing day. He wanted to fight for democracy, brought upon him like so many other social myths. And those men and women in Iraq, Palestine,

Afghanistan, and even here in our own countries—Canada and the United States—who try to allow people to make their own decisions, are truly acting for democracy—the right to live without coercion.

Democracy is not something that happens for five seconds, every five years, and then goes into hibernation. It's something that happens in the streets, in your workplace (believe it or not), and it is something that happens in how you think. You have a right to think outside the party-politics ballot box. You don't need to settle for choosing which of the bad options you want. You need to rely on yourself, me, your neighbours, and your family—and we need to

all work together to empower not just ourselves, but each other. Democracy will terrify those we vote for in their mythical “democracy,” for real democracy is not only far more democratic than the swill of our misleaders—democracy is far more powerful too. Ultimately we are the real power here—if we remove our consent, then the system cannot function. Only the people can. And that's democracy.



What's On Around Town

Amanda Aikman
Culture Editor

Douglas College Events

O Podu

The Tamil Cultural Society of BC presents a performance by Seattle Tamil music group Geetanjali
Dec. 6, 7pm. Douglas College Auditorium
For more information call 604.301.1119

Student Recital

Presented by the Community Music School
Dec. 6, 2-4pm. Performing Arts Theatre, New West Campus
For more information call 604.527.5469

Suzuki Solo Recital

Presented by the Community Music School
Dec. 7, 2-4pm. Performing Arts Theatre, New West Campus
For more information call 604.527.5469

Natural Light

Photos by Mark Mason and glass works by Sol Maya
To Dec. 19, Amelia Douglas Art Gallery, New West Campus
For more information call 604.527.5522

Theatre

The Snow Queen

Langley Players present a Christmas family show based on the Hans Christian Anderson story
Dec. 4-14, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

For more information call 604.534.7469

A Mighty Day

Christmas musical drama written by Dwight Dee and performed by the Fujian Evangelical Church Cherubim Choir
Dec. 6-7, Fujian Evangelical Church
For more information call 604.270.8480

Fortune's Fool

Ivan Turgenev's classic comedy, exploring the delicious paradox of humour and despair in the casual infliction of cruelty
To Dec. 7, Jericho Arts Centre
For more information call 604.224.8007

Cinderella

The Vancouver Opera Guild presents the Vancouver Opera Touring Ensemble's production of Cinderella featuring a carol-sing-along and gingerbread men
Dec. 7, 2pm. Vancouver Academy of Music
For more information call 604.874.4042

It's Snowing on Saltspring

The Arts Club Theatre presents Nicola Cavendish's holiday classic, starring Patti Allan, Jennifer Clement, Bob Frazer, Stephen E. Miller, and Suzi Payne
To Dec. 31, Arts Club Theatre
For more information call 604.687.1644

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Pacific Theatre presents a 20th-anniversary production of C.S. Lewis's children's classic about a magical world at the back of a wardrobe
To Jan. 4, Norman Rothstein Theatre
For more information call 604.731.5518

Singin' in the Rain

Bill Miller directs Betty Comden and Adolph Green's classic musical, starring Peter Huck, Cara Hunter, Cailin Stanyk, and Todd Talbot
To Jan. 11, Stanley Theatre
For more information call 604.280.3311

Galleries

Ansel Adams/Leonard Frank/Eileen Leier

Photography showing separate histories of human detention
To Dec. 20, Presentation House Gallery
For more information call 604.986.1351

Wish You Were Here

Works by Henry Mah
To Dec. 20, Onepointsix Gallery
For more information call 604.684.0478

Catalogue

Installation by Ron Terada investigates the mechanism of exhibition architecture and artifice
To Jan. 4, Contemporary Art Gallery

For more information call 604.681.2700

Transformer

Works by Jacob Gleeson and Gareth Moore
To Jan. 10, Helen Pitt Gallery
For more information call 604.681.6740

Historical Portraits, Contemporary Interpretations

Portraits in textile and fur by Marianne Corless and Ruth Scheuing
To Jan. 11, Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam
For more information call 604.927.6550

Through

Photography and mixed-media works by Florence Debeugny
To Jan. 13, Vancouver East Cultural Centre

Concerts

The Supersuckers

Rootsy raunch rockers from Seattle, featuring guitarist/vocalist Eddie Spaghetti
Dec. 4, Richard's on Richards
Tickets at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444

Christmas Classics

The Capilano College "A" Band and Nitecap perform with guest artists, including Kate Hammett-Vaughan, Bill Coon, and Ross Taggart
Dec. 5, Capilano College Performing Arts Theatre
For more information call 604.990.7810

The Magic of Christmas 2003

Benefit for the Empty Stocking Fund and the Family Services of the North Shore Christmas Bureau featuring performances by the Nylons, Michael Burgess, children's choirs, and more
Dec. 6, Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Tickets at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444

In 3's

Local groove-based collective performs original compositions in the jazz and art-rock vein
Dec. 6, Place des Arts, Coquitlam
For more information call 604.664.1636

Feed the Hungry Benefit

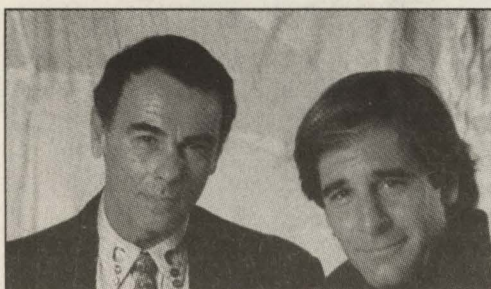
Danny Burns memorial benefit, in aid of the homeless and needy families in the Vancouver downtown Eastside, featuring performances by Rogues n' Tinkers, Blackthorn, Denny Clarke, and others
Dec. 7, Wolf and Hound
For more information call 604.738.8909

Outkast

Hip-hop act from Atlanta performs tunes from latest CD, *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*
Dec. 8, GM Place
Tickets at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444

This Week In History...

Amanda Aikman
Culture Editor



December 3, 1976:

A 40-foot long inflatable pig being photographed for the cover of Pink Floyd's *Animals* breaks loose from the guide wires and takes off from the Battersea Power Station outside of London. Locals in the area who had been depending on the "when pigs fly" loophole to extricate themselves from various obligations were reportedly not impressed.

December 4, 1990:

Madonna appears on *Nightline* to defend her "Justify My Love" video, which was banned by MTV. She denied the video's explicit contents were meant to stir up controversy and to get her publicity. She then went on to deny the concept of gravity and the existence of squirrels.

December 6, 1978:

Sid Vicious, out on bail after being charged with the murder of his girlfriend Nancy Spungen, smashes a glass in the face of Patti Smith's brother during an altercation at a New York rock club. Good for him, because as any reputable psychiatrist will tell you—smashing things into the face of a rock icon's sibling is the first and most important step in the grieving process.



Fanboy's Corner

Xmas Guide

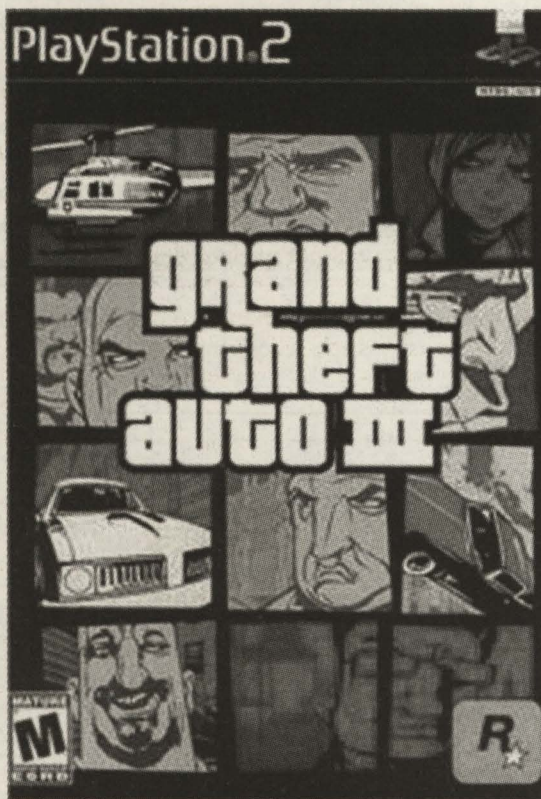
Nick Hogg
OP Game Guy V.20

Got a gamer to shop for this Christmas? Well you're in luck because Game Guy V2.0 has the definitive answers for the gamers on your list. I'll cover everything from the hot titles of the season, to value titles that will still impress any gamer, to hard to find classics that will thrill even the most hardcore gamer. So let's start with what's hot for this season, before it gets cold.

We'll start with the RPG fans in the crowd, and what most of these fans have been waiting all year for is *Final Fantasy X-2* for the PS2. There is no reason any *FF* fan wouldn't be wanting this one for Christmas, so what's the deal? Basically, it's a first for the *FF* series by having a direct continuation of a *FF* story starring Yuna, Riku, and Payine. It's also the only *Final Fantasy* in history to have only female playable characters and to have this much of an overall "girly" feel.

Now for those of you who are constantly complaining that you can make a better RPG with your hands tied behind your back, well now you can put your money where your mouth is with *RPG Maker 2*. You can make mediocre RPGs with contrived plots, simplistic battle systems, and one-dimensional characters on your PS2, hype not included. As well we have the excellently done strategy RPG, *Disgaea: Hour of Darkness*, and because of limited supplies during its release this game is still on a lot of people's hot list. Rounding out the PS2 RPG selection is the ever popular *Dot Hack* series, if you're missing parts of it, now's your chance to complete a great adventure.

For the gamer who holds the law in contempt, we also have a wonderful selection of games where you can shoot things, steal cars, and run people over. Rock Star has released both *Grand Theft Auto 3* and *Vice City* in one easy to buy double pack for both the PS2 and the X-box. Now you get twice the mayhem in one box. Also in the genre of doing what you can't in real life is *Streets of LA True Crime*, which is appearing on all major consoles. Now even though the game bills itself as the best thing since sliced bread (sliced bread being a ground breaking shooter/RPG on the Sega Saturn) the game still comes off as passable, giving something that is essentially an evolution of *GTA*. For those who would rather shoot terrorists you're in luck, Sony's *SOCOM Navy Seals 2* for the PS2 is ready for Christmas enjoyment; once again you can battle terrorists online and offline. And for those of you with the box, we have yet another Tom Clancy game—much like his books there is a new one every week—and this week it's *Rainbow Six 3 Raven Shield*. What to expect? Well, basically just whatever you've seen before in any Tom Clancy game.



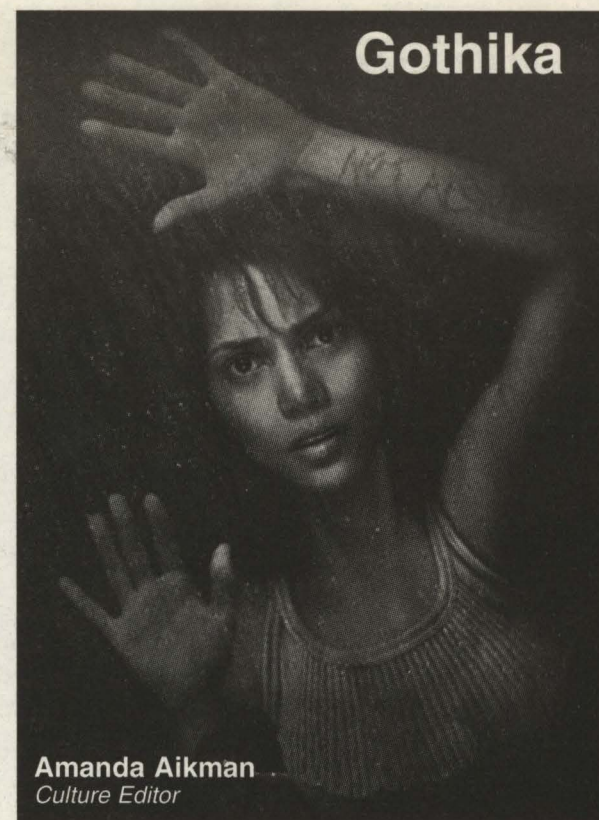
Now there are some gamers out there that are either purists or just people who want to be really prepared for when a jumping puzzle presents itself. To get them going is the follow-up to last year's hit *Ratchet and Clank*. Once again, our favourite cat thingy and his robot take on the galaxy with some of the craziest weapons out there—my personal favourite, the morpha-ray, makes its return. As well we have the new *Jak 2*, which Sony has been thoroughly marketing and is a solid fun game with a good, albeit less funny, story than the original.

For those of you who wish it were 1984, I'm talking about *Defender* and *Joust* 1984 not the oppressive big brother society, Midway is releasing its *Midway Arcade Treasures* with hits ranging from *Defender* and *Joust*, to *Paper Boy*, to *Robotron 2084*. Best of all, it comes with DVD-like extras and an 80s music selection; we'll see how that works out when the game is released.

I cannot leave out the people who really don't like regular games, don't worry there is still stuff for them. *Dance Dance Revolution Max 2*, or just simply *DDR Max 2* is an excellent choice for people who like music-rhythm games or just want something different. For those who are unfamiliar with *DDR*, the basic concept is hitting directional arrows with your feet on a dance pad in time with music. The songs have a huge range here, and most are a great deal of fun to play. Now for those of us too

tired to dance, or who prefer a game that goes better with drinking, there is *Karaoke Revolution*. Yes, it's made by the dance people, basically it turns your PS2 into a karaoke machine. The game comes with a USB headset, similar to the *SOCOM* headset, packed with 40 plus popular songs including my favourite, R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World as We Know It." Finally on our list of making an ass of yourself in front of your friends, is the *Sony Eye Toy*, yes what could be better than swatting at imaginary ninjas on the TV? Watching someone else swatting at imaginary Ninjas on the TV of course. Dude you look hilarious.

Just because a game isn't its full-release price doesn't mean it's not worth buying, thankfully all three manufacturers have quality value software sure to please anyone. Hot on Sony's Greatest Hits list in the RPG category is *FF X* for anyone who wants to play *FF X-2* but has yet to play the original. Rounding out this Greatest Hits list is the overrated *Kingdom Hearts* and the fun-but-dated *Dark Cloud*. As well, we can fill in the gaps for anyone who missed *Jak* and *Daxter* or the original *Ratchet and Clank*, because they're both ready for the season, donning the red Greatest Hits bar.



Amanda Aikman
Culture Editor

If you are a fan of intelligent, well-written, suspenseful horror films, *Gothika* is definitely NOT the film for you. If, however, you are a fan of predictable, hackneyed, and silly-but-still-watchable horror films, well—you're in for a real treat.

In *Gothika*, Halle Berry plays the "brilliant psychiatrist" Miranda Grey. We know she is a brilliant psychiatrist because she uses words like "meds" and "repressed memories," and just in case that technical jargon goes over the heads of us laypersons, several characters in the film actually refer to her as a "brilliant psychiatrist" ("Excuse me brilliant psychiatrist Dr. Grey, could you pass the salt? Oh, thank you Dr. Grey, you brilliant psychiatrist you.").

Dr. Grey works at a big, creepy mental institution, which is made all the more creepy when the power keeps going out due to a faulty generator. In a stroke of genius the writers had several characters casually drop the topic of the faulty generator into their conversations early on, presumably to make it appear less clichéd when the power went out during key "creepy" scenes later on—brilliant. Oh, and look, it's that dead girl from *The Ring* leading Dr. Grey on a journey of terror! No wait, my mistake, it's not that dead girl from *The Ring*, it's just a blatant rip-off of her. "This" dead girl is trying to help Dr. Grey solve the mystery of her murder and bring her killers to justice—and yet for some reason she breaks up this quest every once and a while to beat up the good doctor or try to force her car into oncoming traffic. Why would she keep abusing the woman who is trying to avenge her death? Who knows? For kicks maybe, dead kids these days, who can understand them?

This movie reaches deep into the well-worn bag of horror flick tricks, with plenty of dark and stormy nights, satanic references, and red-herring bad guys—but as a bonus this one also has Halle Berry running around a women's correctional facility in a wet t-shirt. Robert Downey Jr. plays a fellow therapist with obvious designs on the married Dr. Grey, and after Satan/the dead girl/some mysterious unexplained force forces Grey to slaughter her husband with an axe, he becomes her therapist—nope, no conflict of interest there folks.

So what is the most important thing to remember about *Gothika*? That Satan is bad, that we should treat crazy people nicer, that proper maintenance of our generators will keep us from losing power during scary thunder showers, that dead girls have unpredictable tempers, or that Robert Downey Jr. is still capable of pulling a watchable performance out of a lame project? No. The moral of *Gothika* is that as long as your husband is a bad man, it is perfectly acceptable to dismember him with an axe in cold blood. Apparently if you do so, a year later you'll be walking around in a nice, new leather jacket reminiscing about being raped by Satan with Penelope Cruz.

Fresh Baked

Amanda Aikman
Culture Editor

Check out these latest releases while they're still warm!

Book: *Wildfire: British Columbia Burns* by Charles Anderson and Lori Culbert

Release date: Dec. 2003

A compilation of 130 photographs and stories from BC's long, hot summer of 2003. Senior editors and photographers from *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province* newspapers reflect on the historic, economic, and emotional toll of the fires. The book is divided into three sections based on the main fire areas—Kamloops, Kelowna, and Cranbrook. Each section delves into the tragedies of the fires that burned, and the triumphs of the people who fought them.

Movie: *21 Grams*

Release Date: Nov. 28, 2003

21 Grams explores the emotionally and physically charged existences of three characters—a woman, her philandering lover, and an ex-con—whose destinies are irrevocably intertwined in a fusion of love, redemption, and obligation. Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's all fine and good but the real reason I'm planning to see it is because Sean Penn and Benicio Del Toro are in it, hubba hubba.

Album: *A Christmas Album (Bright Eyes)* by Bright Eyes

Release Date: Available now, but only via <www.saddle-creek.com> Bright Eyes' Conor Oberst and Maria Taylor arranged and performed traditional Christmas songs such as "Away in a Manger," "Silver Bells," and of course—"Blue Christmas." Featuring Jake Bellows, Gretta Cohn, Armand Costanzo, Denver Dalley Stephanie Drootin, Orenda Fink, Neely Jenkins, Matt Oberst, and many others. All proceeds from the sales of this album to benefit the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Universal Gospel Choir YULE Winter Concert

Join Vancouver's jubilant Universal Gospel Choir and Music Director Brian Tate for an uplifting evening of Gospel, Folk, and World Spiritual music for the season at its 2003 Winter Concert, YULE, on Saturday, December 6, 8pm, at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, 1550 W. 33 Ave.

The Universal Gospel Choir is a 19-year-old nondenominational Vancouver community choir known for its vocal passion, musical spirit and adventurous repertoire. It will be performing songs from Gospel, American Spiritual, traditional African, Islamic, and European traditions to raise the spirit in times of darkness and unseasonable warmongering.

"An evening with the Universal Gospel Choir is the real thing," writes Tom Sandborn in the *Georgia Straight*. "Within five minutes of the choir's jubilant arrival on stage, I was won over,

along with everyone else in the room. The choir's multicultural reach is conveyed with absolute love and musical discipline. The crowd was swaying in the pews, clapping, and calling out joyfully. When this choir gets up to sing, the audience gets down!"

Fiona Hughes of the *Courier* writes: "The Universal gospel Choir has earned a reputation for its tight vocal unity, sense of musical adventure and powerful soloists whose mighty voices and obvious love for the music won't leave anyone unmoved."

The Choir's new CD, *The Universal Gospel Choir LIVE!* is available for sale at the concert. Tickets for YULE, Winter Concert, are \$18/\$15, and are available at 604.737.1545 or at the door. Last year's Universal Gospel Choir winter concert sold out and this one promises to equal that evening in spirit and audience enthusiasm. So get tickets early.

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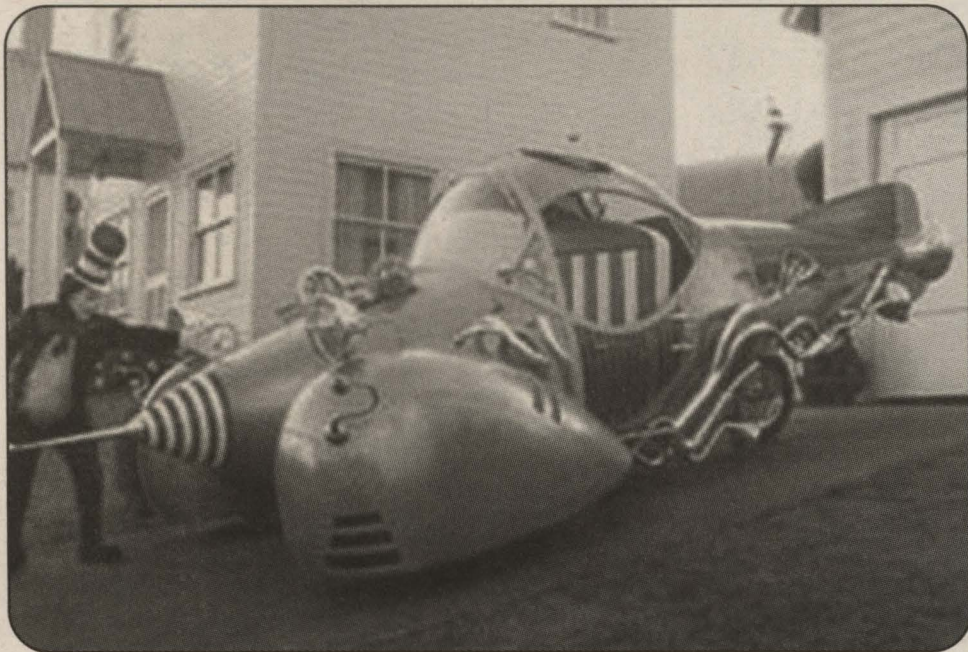
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CAT IN THE HAT

—Declared a Dud by Yours Truly



Kerry Evans
Managing Editor

From a child's point of view, this film is a hit. Funny voices, animation, potty humour, and a happy ending are included in this self-proclaimed entertainment. From a movie connoisseur's point of view, it stinks. I could really appreciate the amazing sets, the costume and make-up design, and the animation; the new cartoonish features seem to be all too familiar, though. The faces are much too similar to those from the *Grinch*. While I can recognize the great strides that have been made in animation techniques, I was hoping to see something a bit more original.

The actual storyline of Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat* was lost in the translation from book to film. I understand that a few pages of a storybook are not easily turned into a Hollywood hit, but I think that there was a real opportunity to stick to the facts in this instance and really go with it, but it just didn't happen. Mike Meyers' character "cat" even announces in his first few lines of the movie that he's not very good at rhyming, and then for the rest of the movie the rhyming is almost completely omitted. Hmm...what ever happened to the *Cat in the Hat* theme?

Let's turn to the writing, or rather the lack of an intelligent storyline. The most disturbing part of the script is omission of offensive phrases. At one point, Meyers refers to his balls saying only "b-a—" while cupping with his hands. At another point he intends to say, "I am going to kick some ass," but instead says, "I am going to kick some a-ha-ha-ha." How many kids

wanted to know the last word? Or worse, how many did know?

The only lines I found somewhat entertaining were those delivered by the fish, voiced by Sean Hayes, who also played Kelly Preston's boss. One of my favourite lines from the movie—ironically the same clip that you've all been seeing on the television—is when Dakota Fanning says, "Hey, the fish is talking," and Meyers responds, "Yes, but is he really saying anything? No, not really." Gee, couldn't have said it better myself—Is this movie entertaining? No, not really. Meyers' own personality was far too overpowering. This was not *Cat in the Hat*, this was Myers dressed up as a cat doing shtick.

My last jab at this movie is at the too-cute Dakota Fanning. I hate to pick on a kid, but this is just too easy to let slide. Fanning has played the same type of character in the three movies—*I am Sam*, *Uptown Girls*, and now *Cat in the Hat*. She plays the girl who doesn't know how to have fun, then learns to have fun, then regrets it, and then she receives her moral of the story. To be typecast as a child actor is just sad. What is even sadder is that there are so many movies for her to be cast in. Don't get me wrong, she does a fantastic job but I wish we could get a chance to see her range once in a while.

All in all. Everyone's job gets done. The actors deliver their lines with enthusiasm, but is it enough to make me purchase the movie when it's released on DVD? No, not really.

Bif Naked's Early Morning Zoo: Vancouver's newest DJ



Trevor Hargreaves
OP Contributor

Ever wonder what a professional musician does to occupy their time when they aren't touring? In the case of Bif Naked, she took a job as a morning DJ on Vancouver radio station 99.3 CFOX FM.

"I guest-hosted in the summer and they asked me if I was interested in doing something on a more full-time basis," explained Bif. "It's pretty cool, I spend weekday mornings doing the show from 6–10am, then I work out at the gym and head over to the studio to lay down vocal tracks for my new album."

As the newest member of "The Fox Morning Show," she's teamed with veteran Fox DJs Jeff O'Neil and Tod Hancock. She may be an experienced musician, but the radio job is putting her through her paces.

"It's pretty crazy for me because those guys are so experienced and I'm brand-new. But I've been working hard and I'm getting pretty comfortable on air."

For Bif, the big problem with taking a morning job is maintaining the "rock-and-roll lifestyle."

"I've only been doing this for a few weeks and it's already presenting certain challenges," she says tiredly. "When big events like the Headbanger's Ball come to town, I want to attend. But it's pretty hard to stay out all night and be at work

really early."

One has to give the ol' Bif some credit. Most people become musicians to avoid her kind of schedule. Besides juggling the music and DJ careers, she's also got a record label to manage.

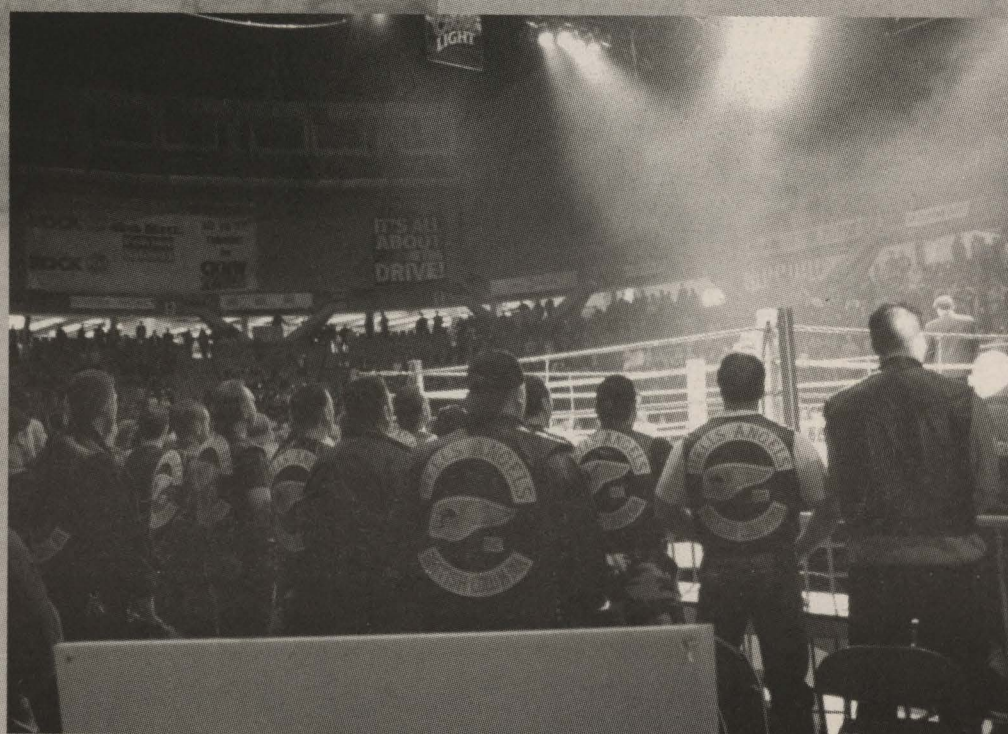
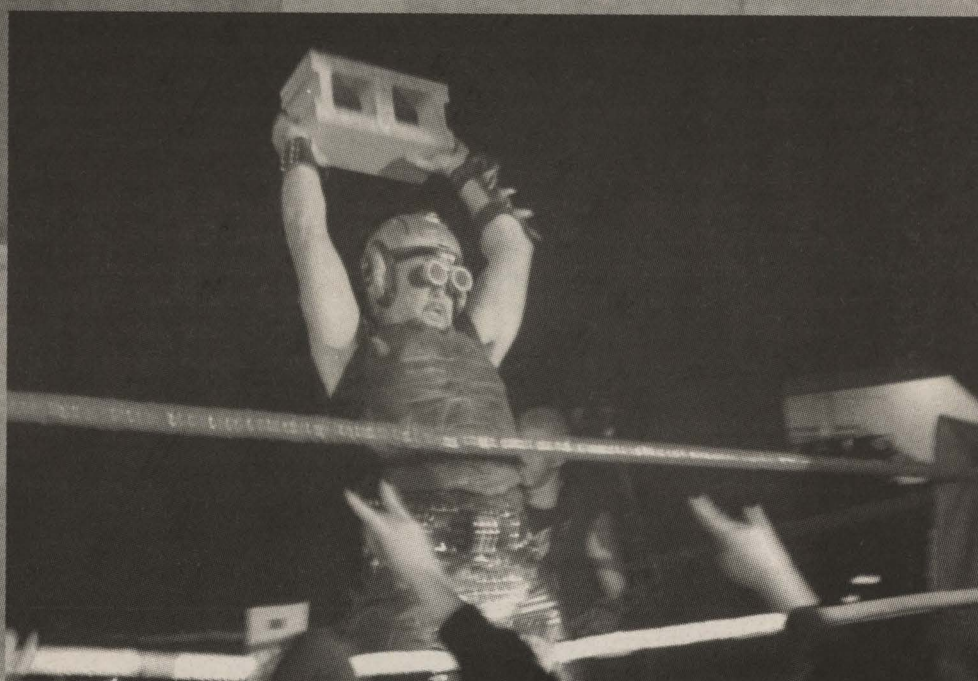
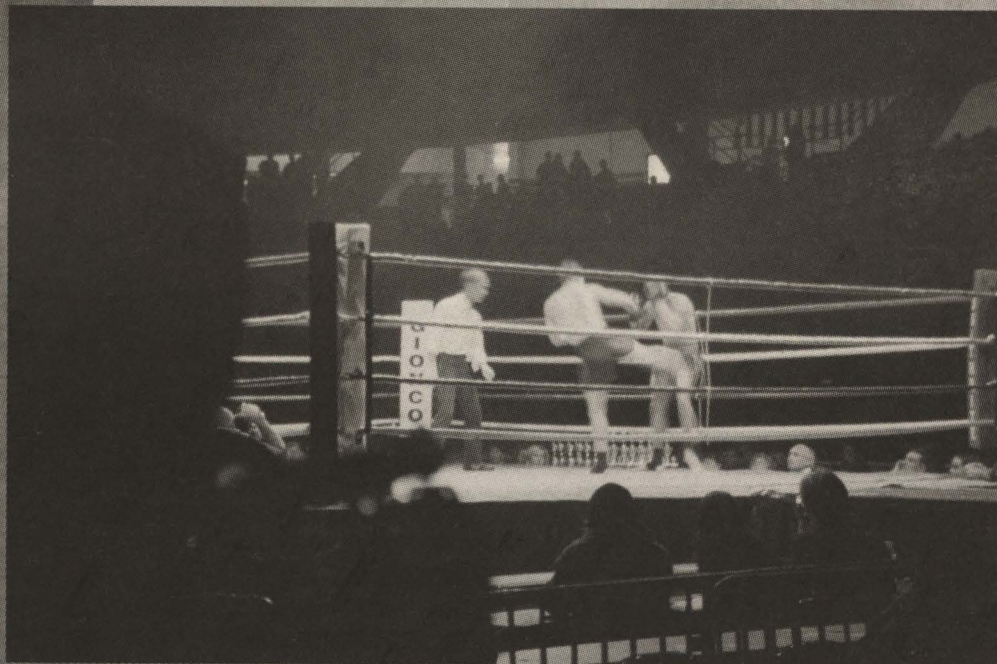
"My label (Her Royal Majesty's Records) is doing pretty well," she explained. "Unfortunately the band Live On Release broke up over the summer and they were on my roster, but Brit Black from L.O.R. has taken on duties playing guitar in my band. I'm actively looking for new bands to sign right now."

With the success of the "girl-band" format on Bif's label, it seems she's still interested in signing ass-kickin', female rock combos.

"You find me a rock group of girls that doesn't suck and I'll sign them today," says Bif offhandedly. "The girl rock-group format is something I really like, but it's tough to find bands that make the grade. We are actually in the process of signing a few bands right now, but I don't want to announce them since the deals aren't fully inked. Rest assured my label's roster will be a little bigger pretty soon."

Vancouver-area residents can listen to Bif on Fox, Monday to Friday from 6–10am. Elsewhere in Canada, the station can be streamed via the web at <www.cfox.com>.

Photo[graphic]



Photos by Angela Blattmann

Poetry/Fiction/Essays/etc.

Black-Ice Hockey

by Amanda Aikman

It is 6am and we are on our way to watch my brother Ira play hockey in some tiny Saskatchewan farm town. Hague, I think; it seems that we go to a different town every week, and yet they are all the same. There is a school, a church, a gas station, and of course—a hockey rink. My older sister never comes with us; in fact she is usually still sleeping when we get back. Not me though, while all the other eleven-year-old girls are still in bed waiting for the “Smurfs” to come on TV and ogling the Duran Duran posters on the walls of their unkempt bedrooms, I am braving the freezing winter temperatures and trekking out to these Saturday morning hockey games.

I enjoy watching my brother fly down the ice of the small-town rinks; his jersey tucked in on one side in homage to his hero Wayne Gretzky. But the real reason I go is for my dad. I don’t talk to my dad much. All I really know about him is that he works in an office, he likes the Beatles, he makes good pancakes, he doesn’t like my mother’s family, and he “loves” hockey. One time I overheard him say to my mother that Brodie, my other brother, only came to Ira’s games so he could blow his allowance at the concession stand. “Not like Amanda,” he had said proudly, “She really enjoys the games.” After that I never bought anything from the concession again, not even when my father offered to buy me the coveted Wacky Packages that were all the rage at school.

Our station wagon crawls over the compacted snow with a crunch as we make our way off the highway and onto a gravel road. At least I assume it is gravel, as it is concealed beneath the many frozen layers of prairie winter.

“You hear this song kids?” my father asks, gesturing toward the radio, “Paul wrote this for John’s son Julian.” He reaches over to increase the volume so McCartney’s singing doesn’t have to compete with his own.

“Honestly Bill, I’m trying to sleep, do you have to keep turning that thing up every five minutes?” my mother asks as she repositions her pillow against the frosty passenger-side window. My mother is not a Beatles fan. In fact my mother is not a music fan. I remember the last time my father had come home excitedly displaying a shopping bag filled with new albums, my mother’s response was “Oh that’s nice dear. No, I don’t want to listen to them. You know, we have to pay for the kids’ swimming lessons tomorrow, how much ‘were’ those things anyway?” Later that same evening as I listened to the new records with my father, he told me how John Lennon had been killed by Mark David Chapman. My mother’s maiden name is Chapman, and this seemed fitting to me. One Chapman had taken Lennon from the Beatles and another wanted to take the Beatles from my father.

The road is very icy, and my mother has opted not to sleep after all. Instead she is peering intently out the windshield and beginning to recite the latest statistics on “black-ice” related deaths. Black ice—that slippery killer that apparently just lies in wait to take out unsuspecting motorists like my father—is one of my mother’s favourite subjects and a long-time bone of contention between my parents. The more grim statistics she rattles off, the faster he drives, and the faster he drives the more embellished her statistics become. If you believed my mother, at least 68% of all deaths in Saskatchewan could be directly attributed to the sinister icy culprit.

To avoid hearing the morbid details of the latest fatality, Ira undoes his seatbelt—leaning past me to perch his chin on the right side of my father’s headrest—and asks, “Dad, how many more points do I need to beat Kissel?”

My father, who has been belting out the last verse of

“Hey Jude” in his own attempt to drown out my mother, pauses to ponder Ira’s question. Tim Kissel was neck-and-neck with my brother in the race for top scorer, but had recently pulled ahead after Ira had spent most of the last two games in the penalty box. “Well,” says my father, “The way I see it you only need...”

“Jesus!” my mother interjects. Not a religious family by any stretch of the imagination, we all know she isn’t finishing my father’s sentence. As we simultaneously redirect our gazes to where she is looking, we see the large pick-up truck that is positioned sideways in the road ahead.

My brother Brodie, who has been sleeping to the right of me, awakens suddenly—whether because of the volume of my mother’s “Jesus!” or the absolute silence that followed it, I’m not sure. Ira sinks back into his spot, seatbelt still unfastened and dangling over the edge of the car’s faded burgundy upholstery. My mother is gripping the door handle and muttering something I can’t make out; I imagine she is rummaging through the remnants of her Catholic upbringing for a prayer to combat the black ice that has finally come to claim her.

What is happening? This doesn’t make any sense. We’re just going to a hockey game; we do this all the time. My mother’s doctored statistics begin flooding back to me: “Four teenagers killed outside of Swiftcurrent—black ice to blame,” “Couple killed in head-on collision returning from Blackstrap, authorities claim black ice a factor.” I add a new one to the list: “Five family members killed early Saturday morning en route to a hockey tournament in Hague. Eldest daughter orphaned and sent to live with relatives in Winnipeg.”

Where is that sound coming from? A low moaning is filling the car and I look from one brother to the other, but their mouths are frozen shut. The sound is coming from my father. He has begun to twist the wheel, his hands pulling it towards him repeatedly as the car begins to spin on the ice. More so than the pick-up truck or my mother’s stories, it is this sound that really frightens me. My father is scared. My father wouldn’t be scared unless there was a reason to be.

Ira’s seatbelt. The sound of my father’s moaning and the image of Ira’s dangling seatbelt are the only things that exist right now. There’s no time to fasten it, so I reach over and put my arms in front of him, convinced that my eleven-year-old arms will withstand the force of any impact. They have to—he is my little brother.

We are still spinning and nobody is talking; the only sound is the horrible moaning coming from my father. I think of my sister and wonder if she will cry when she finds out that I am dead. I know she will cry for everyone, but I want her to cry especially for me. I look past Brodie, and see the truck outside of his window; I feel bad for worrying so much about Ira, why had I never made an effort to get along better with Brodie?

Miraculously the spinning stops—the back of our car coming to rest only inches away from the front of the truck. For a moment we are silent, then my mother starts crying and my brothers begin nervously reenacting the close call. My father removes his seatbelt and gets out of the car. I assume he is either inspecting our vehicle or investigating the seemingly abandoned truck. I am wrong. I hear the trunk open and close, and then the sound of my father’s large boots flattening snow as he walks back around the car. He opens Ira’s door and hands him his hockey bag, “Here,” he says, “You’d better start suiting up in the car, looks like we’re going to be late.”

Publishing the Evolution

A new wave of feminist magazines gives women voices

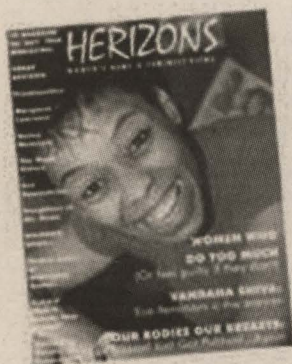
Stéphanie Verge
The Link

MONTREAL (CUP)—Whether glossy and magazine-rack ready, or photocopied and circulated as underground 'zines, feminist magazines are experiencing a rebirth. Riding the third wave of feminism, and inheriting the legacy of such powerhouses as *Ms.* magazine, publications like *Bitch*, *Venus*, and *Herizons* have taken on this mantle, but don't always find it easy.

"It is nearly impossible to keep afloat," admitted Penni Mitchell, editor of the leading Canadian feminist magazine, *Herizons*. "We are always five seconds away from closing our doors. But what keeps me going is the fact that people really, really love it. Readers will send notes scribbled on their subscription notices, or emails. Magazines like ours are important. If they make people—if they make feminists—feel good about their lives, that's terrific," she said from her home office in Winnipeg.

Third wave of feminist writing?

The divide-and-conquer nature of the mainstream media has led to the widespread adoption of the contentious third-wave moniker in an attempt to define and categorize present-day feminism. Historically, feminism's first wave was the suffragist movement, which secured, among other things, the right to vote. The second wave sought to move above and beyond this toward equality, and also began to analyze diversity within the movement. The third wave, the current generation, is continuing on with the same goals in mind.



Andi Zeisler, co-editor with Lisa Jervis of *Bitch* magazine, is not a fan of the wave metaphor. "It carries this idea that one wave wipes out the next. If anything, I prefer the idea of a pan-wave magazine."

Zeisler maintained that categorization is generally risky. Her devotion to *Bitch*'s tagline "a feminist response to pop culture," has proven problematic since the magazine's inception eight years ago.

"In retrospect, it was a bold and somewhat hindering move for us to put the word 'feminist' right up front," she said from her office in Oakland, California. "I wouldn't say that it's the kiss of death, but it certainly doesn't move you right along."

Surprisingly, most of the criticisms *Bitch* has received are not about the magazine's five-letter name, but rather its use of the "f-word."

"It's definitely ghettoized us," Zeisler said. "People make bad associations, archaic associations with the word 'feminist.' People call and ask us, 'Do you hate men?' And it's really a shame because there are a lot of men who read *Bitch*. Yet people still ask us if we hate men, if we hate straight people. I really think part of the responsibility lies with the media, which hasn't evolved to understand feminism as something other than this monolithic thing from the 70s. They haven't understood that it can be individual, that it encompasses a lot of different viewpoints."

In the underground

The rise of the underground 'zine culture in the 1990s affected the way women viewed the feminist movement, letting them know just how many like-minded people there were out there. Some 'zines faded away, while others survived and evolved.

Amy Schroeder started the music-oriented *Venus Zine* as a 19-year-old college student. The first run was 100 stapled, black-and-white copies distributed out of her Chicago dorm room. Eight years later, *Venus* has a circulation of 50,000 and has finally started making a small profit.

"We're doing okay right now. Thankfully, there's a huge demand from our readers. We're 100 percent independent, however, so we do rely solely on our subscriptions, newsstand sales, and advertising," she admitted. "But it's not that difficult, because I am so used to *Venus* being broke."

Back in 1994, Schroeder felt like something was missing from alternative music publications, which seemed to focus solely on male musicians. Although happy to be the one to fill the void, she explained that in an ideal world, *Venus* wouldn't have to exist.

Mitchell agrees with both Zeisler's and Schroeder's assessment of the current situation. "The reason people read feminist magazines is because they don't see their reality reflected in places it should be, like the mainstream media," she said. "But 'feminist' has always been and will always be a subversive title. It is dangerous. Feminism comes with baggage. We think about things, and we think critically."

Mitchell said that she would like to reach more readers, but many are afraid of the feminist nature of *Herizons*. "We've never been able to fool anyone into buying our magazine," she said, laughing. "Our message is obvious, and is based on who writes for us, and what they are saying on gay issues and women's rights, among others."

Herizons contributors include journalist and *The Trouble with Islam* author Irshad Manji, prominent feminist Judy Rebick, and former *Chatelaine* editor Doris Anderson.



Up against the mainstream

The main difference, according to Mitchell, between *Herizons* and magazines like *Chatelaine*—which is marketed as a "woman's magazine"—is that the latter pays lip service to women. "*Chatelaine*, with a circulation of 3.3 million, will have one article about feminism. Basically, it's an advertising vehicle. We are not."

Herizons sells approximately 4,000 copies per issue, only 1,000 of which are sold on newsstands. With 80 percent of the magazines on Canadian newsstands coming from the United States, the space left is often taken up by mainstream pub-

"If they make people—if they make feminists—feel good about their lives, that's terrific," Penni Mitchell, editor of Herizons

lications like *Chatelaine* and *Maclean's*. Large bookstores do not generally carry alternative magazines because they are less lucrative.

Zeisler agrees that the main financial challenge stems from being an alternative magazine, not from direct competition with other publications. This is different from fashion magazines, which conceivably have to contend with a dozen clones on the market for women's attention.

Part of *Bitch*'s raison d'être is to offer a

viable alternative to the mainstream press, especially for women, whom Zeisler said, "have always been short-changed in and by the media." Before *Bitch*, both Zeisler and Jervis worked at the groundbreaking and now-defunct teen magazine *Sassy*.

"I started *Bitch* with Lisa and it's a labour of love for us that stems from a deep, deep love of writing, magazines, and publishing. We've both had the corporate jobs with the good pay, but there was just a larger need in our lives to do something challenging."

The founding editors of *Bitch* were deeply influenced and inspired by *Sassy* when they broke out on their own. "We wanted to create something that resonated with teens and young adults in the same way. We wanted it to have an open-minded and joyful flavour," she explained. "I still remember when I first got a copy of *Sassy*. I was 15 years old, and I was being lulled into submission by *Seventeen* magazine and its articles on how to get a boy."

Image conscious

Schroeder shares Mitchell and Zeisler's frustrations with the mainstream press. "Just look at what constitutes front-page news. Politics. And who leads politics? Men. As for so-called women's magazines, they are really just fashion and beauty magazines. One of my main motivations for starting a 'zine was definitely to counter that image," she said.

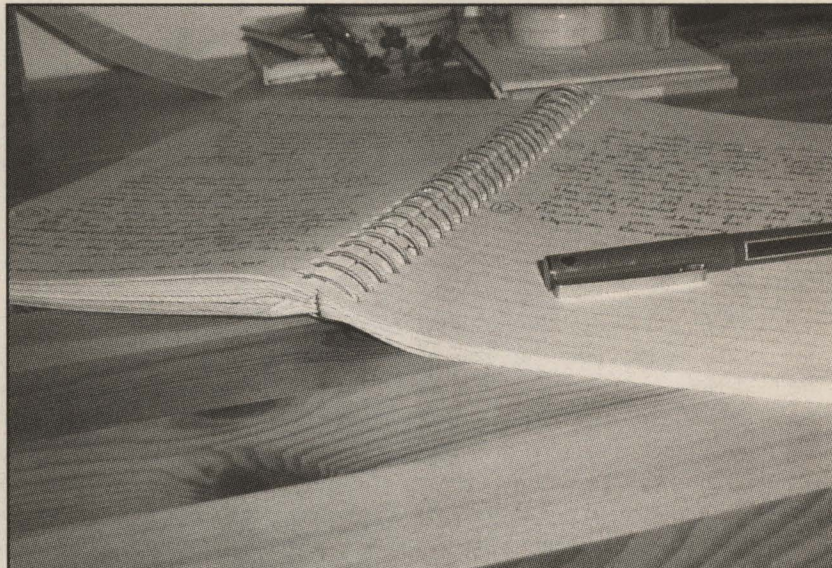
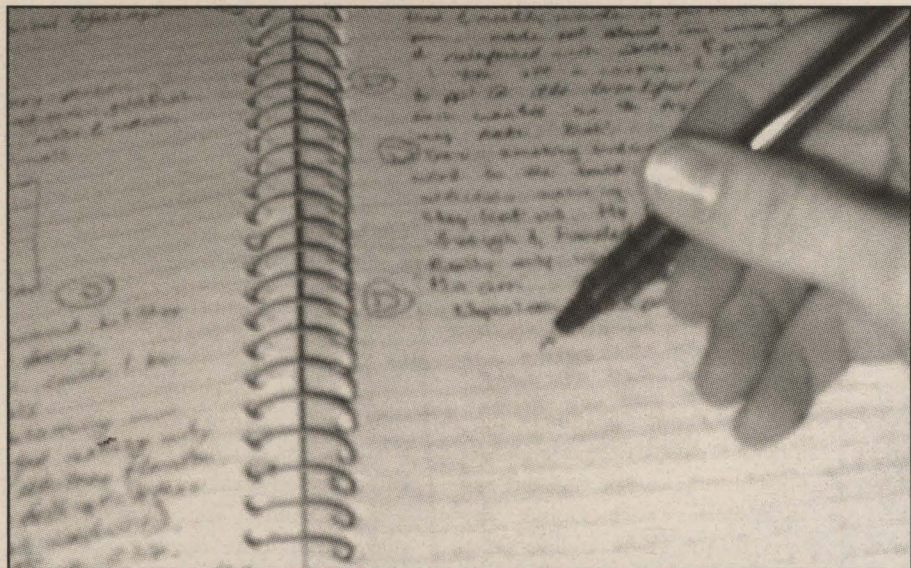
As a matter of principle, *Venus* does not airbrush its covers. This policy has been a cause for concern at many record labels, but Schroeder refuses to back down.

"With us you see the real deal," she insisted. "In the media, you see a lot of images of powerful male artists as they are, but you don't really see women like that." She admitted, however, that the pressure on men to look perfect is also on the rise. "It will be interesting to see where this obsession with image and beauty will take us over the next 20 years," she mused.

Contemporary women's magazines have evolved, emphasizing independence and self-confidence while trying to embrace new and subversive definitions of beauty. *Herizons* has celebrated its tenth year (in its second incarnation), as has the popular and influential New York magazine *Bust*. But there is clearly still more work to be done before "feminism" ceases to be a dirty word for the mainstream.

"I have no idea why people think we live in a post-feminist era. I guess it's because they read it in the media," Zeisler said. "Often, feminists are painted as whiners who have gotten everything they wanted and still aren't happy. Well, the fact is women still don't make as much money as men, and rape and abortion laws still leave a lot to be desired when it comes to women and their safety. In some ways, we've been compromised by a few small victories that have been represented as one huge victory by the media."

Secret Scribblings



Carly Reid
OP Contributor

Why do we writers obsess about sharing our writing with the world? Why do we write if not to have others read what we have written? What causes us to hoard our work, become misers with our words?

One reason is the inherent solitary nature of the pursuit. Certainly, this depends on the kind of writing you do and the context in which you do it. Some documents are obviously joint efforts, but these are not the ones that writers have trouble sharing. The difficulty is in exposing to light a piece you've spent hours hunched over in some dark corner of the house. If you've had no input along the way, you have very little idea how others will receive it. It's a product of you—only you—and that can be frightening. The feeling is similar to that of holding a secret for so long that it grows, and becomes, in your mind, black, grotesque, and unmanageable because you've lost all perspective and have had no rational, objective input.

Some writers even see their writing as their child, a reflection of themselves and their own qualities—a source of much pride. In sharing, the writer sends this child out into the cruel world where those who don't love her as fiercely won't hesitate to rip her apart.

And yet, in every writer's life, this moment of unveiling must come.

My own moment was involuntary. Friends and family had always asked to see my writing. The more I demurred, the more curious and insistent they became. One day, my mother caught me red-handed as I compiled poems into a binder.

"Oh, can I read those?" she asked innocently.

"Yeah, sure."

I tossed the binder into her hands and ran from the room. Deep down, I was dying for someone to read my poetry, but I was petrified of revealing so much of myself and of the reaction that act would incur. So I fled.

I needn't have run off. The whole episode was much less dramatic than I had envisioned it would be. The rest of the family ended up perusing the poems, and I was relieved by their low-key reactions. I was also surprised that my sister, whose primary reading material since she outgrew R.L. Stine has been *InStyle* magazine, actually made it through the whole binder and followed up with comments! Perhaps, I realized, I was not as complex and indecipherable as my writer's ego had had me believe.

Perhaps I wasn't giving my audience enough credit.

For writers, this realization—while humbling—is also liberating. Moreover, the accompanying rush of nervous energy resembling a high often leads to the need to show writing to others again and again. The less bold may start by leaving sheets of writing casually strewn in strategic, highly-visible locations, but each writer has his or her own approach that may evolve with time.

In any case, whenever we share our writing, we are raw and exposed. The writing may be misconstrued, disliked, criticized. Some of us personalize these reactions. We feel safer with our words pressed tight between the musty pages of some secret book we lock up in dark places, which not only ensures we are safe, but static, as well. Sharing is an integral part of the writing process. The written word is dynamic, changing with context and interpretation, and, although reader feedback can be invaluable, the greatest satisfaction lies in simply knowing our words are out there, refreshed with every reading, and part of the constant motion of language and communication.



**Write for
the other press
it's more fun
than a game
of naked
lawn bowling!**

Pearcy's Rugby Write-Up

Women's Rugby

Dave Pearcy
OP Contributor

Sat, Nov. 22 Premier:

This clash between the two undefeated premier league teams came at a difficult time for the Douglas girls, since they took the field with several key players missing due to injury. Although they hung in for two-thirds of the match, SFU pulled away in the second half for a well-deserved victory and sole possession of top spot.

Douglas began the match with Kelly Kitamura in her first game at the fly-half position and with forward Laura Kinnear-Harmse at outside centre. Right from the start, the Douglas backs were pressured and could not make any forward progress. SFU won possession in the Douglas end and scored a converted try to take the lead. Midway through the half, SFU scrumhalf Tara Kay deked out three defenders on a 40 metre run to give SFU a 12-0 advantage. A counterattack from deep in Douglas territory saw Tanya Leigh and Amber Cummings on a two-on-one break, but the decision to try and beat the lone

SFU 27
Douglas 5

defender instead of passing off, likely cost Douglas a much needed score.

The Douglas girls came out hard to start the second half, and scored on a set play after winning a scrum near the SFU tryline. Winger Agnes Stefek (called up from 2nd div.) fought through a tackle to score her first-ever Premier Division try (5-12).

The game was hard fought for the next while, but then Douglas suffered another huge blow when Amber Cummings had to be helped off with a knee injury. With no back spares left, the home team sent another forward out to the wing and the momentum of the game shifted in SFU's favor. Continuous SFU pressure gained possession for their backs and they scored two tries, a conversion, and a penalty goal to run out clear victors.

The prospects don't get any better for Douglas, as they must travel to North Vancouver next to take on a tough Capilano team.

Sun, Nov. 23 2nd Division:

Abbotsford 7
Douglas 5

Douglas faced off against always tough Abbotsford, who were seeking revenge for a loss earlier in the season. The rain made for slippery ball-handling as numerous passes were dropped and opportunities lost during the entire course of the match. Douglas drove down to the Abby tryline off the opening kick-off, but the team's inability to control the scrums and rucks early on cost them more than one good scoring chance.


Most of the first half saw Douglas in Abby territory, thanks to the outstanding kicking of fly-half Candace Barry, but the game was scoreless at the interval. Douglas took advantage of a fumbled kick-off to gain advantage in the Abbotsford end as the game continued. Finally, some good ball-handling sent Barry in to score out wide. The convert was wide (5-0).

This seemed to give a wake-up call to the opposition as they suddenly came on with passion. The Abby outside centre broke through three attempted tackles on a 50 metre run before being held up by fullback Vickie Dhillon. The Abby support arrived and drove the ball over the remaining few metres to count a try. The convert put Douglas two points behind.

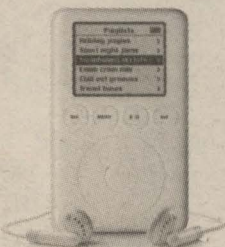
Abbotsford kept the locals in their own end for most of the remaining time, with Barry's kicking again relieving pressure on several occasions. The loss sees Douglas tied for second with Abbotsford, although the locals have the advantage in points scored should the teams remain tied at the end of the season. Douglas now rests until the season resumes in the New Year.




movies




Winter break.



music



photos



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Disney On Ice— Princess Classics

Kerry Evans
Managing Editor

Before you dismiss this article, yes, ice-skating is a sport. Think of Disney On Ice as theatre sports. I mean, it was at GM Place, it was on ice, the fans dressed similar to the performers, and parking was impossible. It was practically a hockey game—for all intents and purposes—for goodness' sakes.

This past weekend, I had the pleasure in accompanying my daughter to the show. First, I must mention how much I loved that every five steps of the GM Place lobby was a stand where I could purchase incredibly overpriced memorabilia. The programs for sale were \$15 and contained pictures from the show. Hmm...do I need to be reminded?—I don't think so. Of course my daughter insisted how bad her memory was and that I would become, in fact, a waste of money to not buy the program because she would forget the show by the end of the day. Who is this person? Anyway, we agreed on a \$5 colouring book. Oh, and the beverages were cheap. Only \$12 for two pops and a coffee—what a steal!

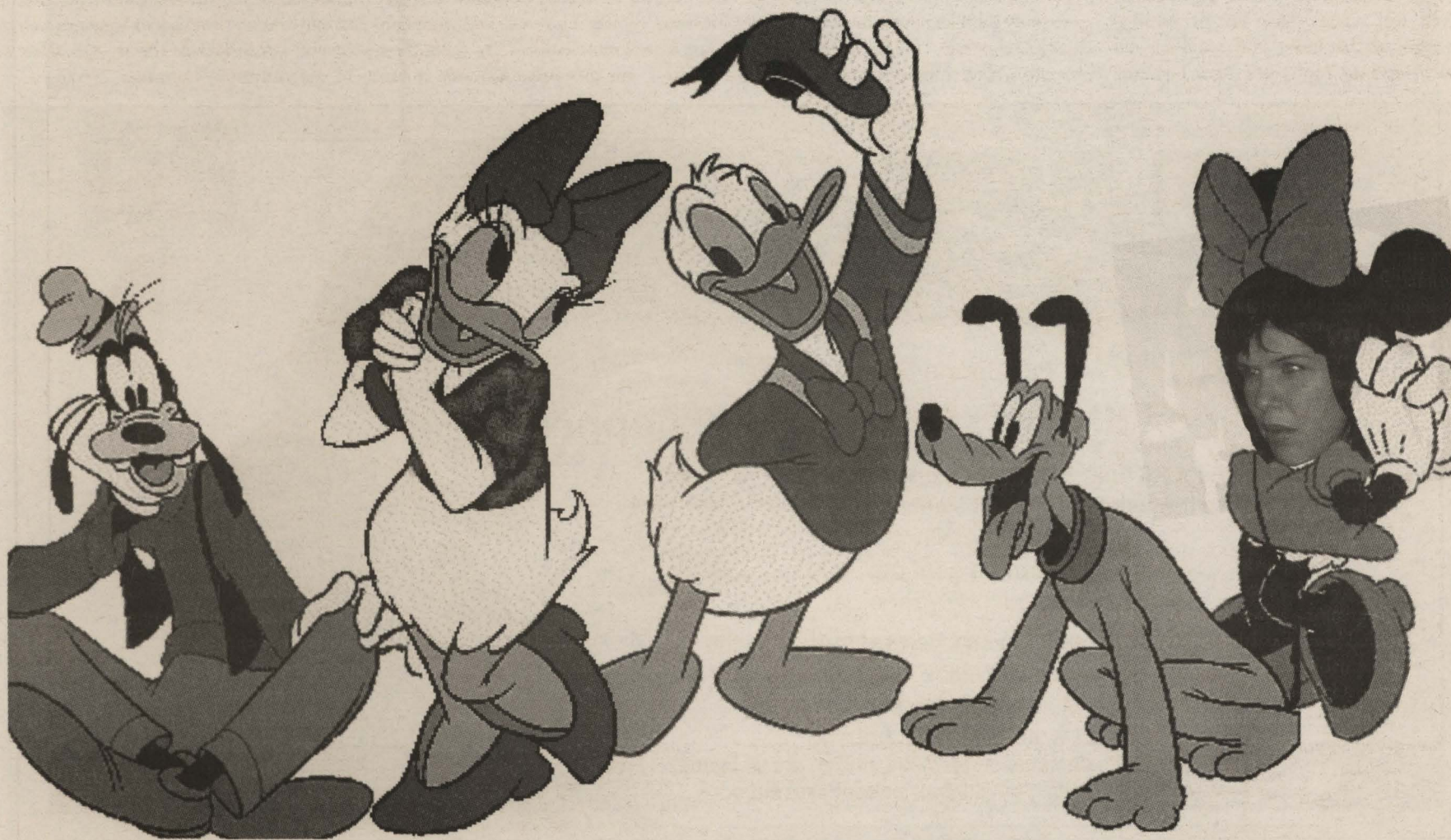
They covered all the princess stories: Snow White, Mulan, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, and Little Mermaid. Unfortunately, they only portrayed portions of each story, starting and ending in the middle. There was no "Once upon a time" and there was no "Happily ever after." I could hear surrounding kids saying, "That's not how the story goes." That's right kids, that ain't

how it goes, but I guess Disney thinks you are too dense to remember that. Now go buy some cotton candy and shut up. Those are Disney's thoughts—I would never tell someone else's kids to shut up—well, not right to their faces anyway.

Hey, you know what was great about the show? The costumes were amazing—I'll bet you never hear that in one of Flash's commentaries. Each sequin on each costume shone brightly. I definitely give five gold stars to the designer and seamstress. The dresses were beautiful and my eyes almost misted over when Cinderella—decked out in her sparkly white wedding gown—made her final entrance with Prince Charming. Hey, I said "almost misted." Is it okay to cry at sporting events?

Wow, and did the skating ever suck. Cinderella fell a few times, my daughter could do the lame lifts they were "trying" to do, and I would have to give their effort and enthusiasm two thumbs down. Do not attend this event if you have any respect for ice-skating as a sport or even as a hobby.

At the end of the show the cast was shaking the hands of the kids in the front row, and then everyone started to rush down. I was thinking this could turn into some sort of riot so we headed for the exit, and once we got through the cloud created by smokers, we hustled to the car. So next year, we are getting seats up front for sure; See you there?



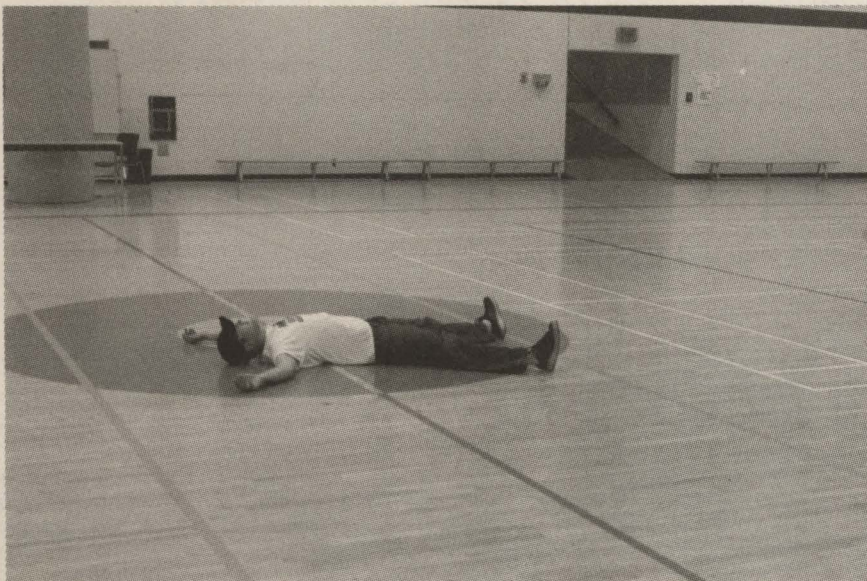
Flash's Guide to Weightlifting for the Weak

Flash Gordon
Sports Editor

So, you want to be huge do you? There are visions of large Austrian Governor's dancing around in your head? Forget Hans and Franz, I'm here to pump you up. As a follow up to the popular "Jogging for Dummies" piece, here are some ideas to aid you in your quest for bigness. I'll also take this opportunity to poke fun at some gym twits who don't realize how silly they look in front of the mirrors while they are "working out." For weekend binge beer drinkers, weightlifting is not the ideal activity to keep your keg a reasonable size. No matter how much you can lift, if you don't watch your calorie intake and get your heart rate up regularly, you'll still be a tub of goo.

Think of your fitness centre membership as an investment in yourself. It requires time, effort, and of course money. You will end up shelling out a pretty penny for a gym membership. The costs tend to increase with the more exclusive centres or the facilities with more features i.e. pool, sauna, aerobics studios etc. For students at Douglas College, the Chris Johnson Fitness Centre located in the sports and recreation area of the college is an ideal place to get started. A semester pass will only cost you \$55; some private gyms will charge you that much for just a month. It's a steal. The Chris Johnson Fitness Centre is quite adequate for the beginner Arnold-wannabe.

Let's say you are a 98 lb weakling who has never lifted anything heavier than a pencil your whole life and you step into the gym like a lost lamb in the city. All those machines and big cumbersome weights might look intimidating. You may even feel afraid. That fear is justified because all that heavy stuff could fall and turn you into floor paste. After investing



in yourself but not before you physically set foot in the gym, invest in "heavy-things-falling-on-me" insurance.

Once you are ready to lift, do not go in your club or bar-star clothes. Major "faux pas!" Most places insist on appropriate footwear like non-streaking court shoes, gym shorts, and t-shirts. Huge guys, and only huge guys, are allowed to wear tank tops showing off their disturbingly deformed torsos. It ain't natural but I dare you to go tell them otherwise. For the beginner wear something conservative but comfortable. Let's remember that you're going to lift weights, not enter a bikini contest, you weirdo.

So now you have a weight in your hand, what are you going to do with it? You could swing around like a top, destroying everything in your path. Wouldn't that be cool? Here are some things to consider. Your body is broken up in to several major muscle groupings. Without demeaning you with their official names, they are

your chest, abdominal muscles, shoulders, back, arms, and legs. Each muscle group can be strengthened through various exercises attacking the muscle from different angles by alternating movements.

Before you raise that weight one inch, decide what your goal is since there are two basic principles behind weightlifting. Do you want to be big and powerful or lean and strong? If you're confused now, maybe I should let you go back to your Tim Horton's coffee and donuts. If the concept of power and strength goes over your head, let me simplify it a little. When you are training for bulk and brute strength, the strategy is to lift heavy over a few repetitions. Exercising as such targets the bigger, meatier parts of the muscles and thusly shows more development of size. If you are inclined to play sports then training for a more explosive reaction may be your choice. The next key words are "fast twitch muscle fiber." By using those words, I can guarantee I'm not in the

Douglas Sports Science Program. Football players are prime examples of athletes who train the fast twitch muscle fiber to achieve faster reactions from their muscles. However the 98 lb weakling has a long way to go before he becomes an all-star linebacker in the NFL.

Say you have that weight in your hand; what do you do with it? Put it down. Slow down Tiger. You have to warm-up first. Spend a minimum of five minutes on an exercise bike or treadmill. It gets the blood flowing. Your arms are less likely to break off when they are prepared for an activity. Starting cold increases your chances of muscle injury and embarrassment. Believe me, people will laugh. If they aren't visibly laughing then they are being kind and laughing at you on the inside.

Determining the exercises you do is based on the muscle groups. I may be long-winded but I'm not going to describe every possible exercise you could do. I won't even bother with one since it might lose something in the translation from text to action. Go to a gym, see what other people are doing and do that. Except for the huge guys, don't do what they are doing. Pick weights that are comfortable to use and give moderate resistance. Avoid the big dumbbells that cause hernias. There's a surgery you don't need. Whatever exercises you do, don't heave the weight around like you're the Hulk, do breathe while you work out since the veins in your neck and head are likely to explode otherwise and there was a third thing but I forget what it is. It's imperative that you go into weightlifting with a bit of knowledge, people! If this little piece hasn't put you on your way to bigger muscles, maybe a swift kick in the ass will. Cheers to you and happy hunting.

FLASH GORDON

OP Sports Editor,

Flash Gordon is looking for sports writers and opinionated sports fans to contribute news articles to the weekly Fall and Winter editions of The Other Press

Submissions can be sent online to:
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Handwritten articles can be dropped off in the mail slot of the OP office in the bowels of Douglas College.

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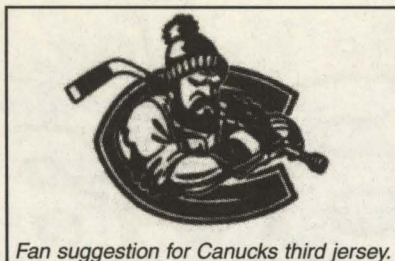
Letters and comments on previous articles are welcome*
(subject to editing by glorious leader Flash Gordon)

Canuck Corner

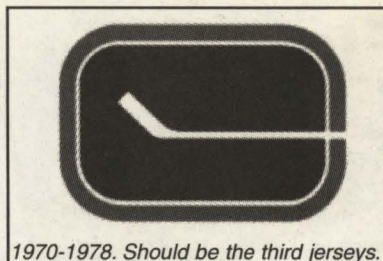
CF Miley
OP Columnist



The "Johnny Canuck" WHL Logo.



Fan suggestion for Canucks third jersey.



1970-1978. Should be the third jerseys.

Watching the Heritage Classic a couple of weeks back got me thinking about history—the history of Canuck-luck. As any die-hard fan of the Vancouver Canucks will tell you, it's been a long, dry, and painful ride to finally have a team that is near the top of the league. Our beloved 'Nucks have seemed cursed since inception. Talk to the old-time fans, and you'll soon realize that one reason Vancouverites are such fervent hockey fans is that they've endured so many years of Canuck-luck and bad bounces. It all began at the Canucks first ever entry draft.

The Canucks were granted an NHL expansion franchise in 1969, as were the Buffalo Sabres. Canucks' first General Manager, Bud Poile, and coach Hal Laycoe, joined the rest of the NHL bosses in Montreal for the Canucks' first-ever entry draft. NHL president Clarence Campbell would spin a wheel with odd and even numbers on it to decide who would draft first overall. The Canucks had

the even numbers, while the Sabres had the odds. Campbell spun the wheel and announced, "Number two!" The Canucks brass celebrated their luck to land the first pick. Then, Buffalo GM Punch Imlach yelled at Campbell, "That's not a two...it's an eleven!" As Canuck-luck would have it, Clarence Campbell had misread the number eleven as the Roman numeral two. The Buffalo squad received the first overall selection.

The Sabres didn't hesitate with their pick, and nabbed Gilbert Perreault. Perreault ended up playing a total of 17 seasons with Buffalo. The Canucks, dazed by the first of many bouts with Canuck-luck, took Dale Tallon. Tallon ended up being a sturdy, reliable player, but he never came close to the superstardom reached by Perreault. Buffalo soon had the vaunted "French Connection" line, while the Canucks franchise toiled in relative obscurity for years to come.

This week began with more Canuck-

luck, with the lads dropping both halves of a home-and-home series with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Gary Roberts scored within the first forty seconds of both games. The Canucks battled back, and both games were tied in the third period, but late defensive gaffs cost the Canucks dearly. 'Nuff said.

The second half of "Retro-Jersey Night" followed on November 26, with the Canucks donning the "stick-in-the-rink" road jerseys in Montreal. The boys came out storming, with the "Snazzy Mortuzzi line" busting out for eight points. Markus Naslund—the "Snazzy" in the "Snazzy Mortuzzis"—had two goals and an assist to lead the 'Nucks to a 5-2 victory.

The game-of-the-week was the November 27 match-up in Ottawa. The Sens have been struggling as of late, but the game still lived up to the hype. The Canucks came out flying again, and jumped out to a 2-0 lead. Former Canuck Peter Schaefer scored a late second period

goal to get the Sens back in the game. Fifty-one seconds later, Jason Spezza scored again to tie the game at two going into the third period. Ottawa was all over the Canucks throughout the final stanza, but Dan Cloutier held the fort with a little help from "a goalie's best friend," the goal post. "Oh Danny Boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling, from glen to glen, and down the mountain side."

Markus Naslund scored the overtime winner give the Canucks a 3-2 win. Naslund had an assist to go with his goal, and is up to twenty-nine points on the year, just two back of Alex Tanguay's NHL leading thirty-one. After playing six games in the last eleven days, the Canucks have a light week, with the only two games being a home-and-home series against Calgary. Screw Canuck-luck, we're making our own luck these days. Go 'Nucks.

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A photograph of a person ziplining over a building. The person is shirtless, wearing a red shirt, and has a joyful expression with a wide smile. They are holding onto a rope with both hands. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and the structure of a building below.

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